

Self-Advocates and Families Campaigning Together

Sammy Lamb, Gary Bourlet and Rachael Hall

About Right2Home

- Started by Self-Advocacy Together
 - 5 self-advocacy groups working together as a social movement
 - Set up with funding from Nesta as part of their social movements for health programme
 - Aim was to strengthen self-advocacy nationally
 - One campaign priority was about **Assessment and Treatment Units**



About Right2Home

- Self-advocacy together started working with family campaigners

#HomesNotHospitals

#StrippedOfHumanRights and

#RightfulLives

- First week of action was 1st anniversary of Whorlton Hall
- This week is the 10th Anniversary of Winterbourne view panorama
- Covid means we've focused on social media campaign
- What we achieved



The importance of self-advocacy led campaigns

- Self-advocates need to be in charge of campaigns
- Equal partners and equal leaders
- Self-advocates know what the solutions are
- Service providers and family forums need to work with and to self-advocates and become their allies.
- Decision makers need to work with and listen to what self-advocates have to say.

What its like to be a leader?

Campaigning together: Pros

- Working with people from around the country
- Families have existing campaigns and an important point of view
- We have a louder voice together!

Issues with working together

- Building trusting relationships and a changing group dynamics when new people joined
- Making sure self-advocates and leading and being listened to
- Having the same goals
- Covid-19 and working online together

Being an ally as a self-advocate

- Not all of the leaders in the Right2Home campaign have lived experience of ATUs
- Lots of us have fought for good support, without it we could be in ATUs too
- They want to stand in solidarity with other people with a learning disability
- We know some people have traumatic experiences and don't want to speak up
- We want to help raise their voices
- Our values: listen to us, hear our voices... nothing about us without us!

Being an ally as an organisation

- Ownership of the campaign
- Roles and expectations

Discussion

What are the barriers to families and self-advocates campaigning together? How can we overcome them?

What is the role for formal organisations in supporting campaigns?