

Self-advocacy Group volunteer

July 2021

This is a new volunteer role for CASBA

1. Purpose of the role

CASBA is an advocacy charity supporting adults, who have a learning disability, who live in South Birmingham.

CASBA understands that the goal of advocacy is that people should be able to speak up for themselves.

CASBA is supporting the development of a new Self-advocacy group.

The Self Advocacy group will:

- help to shape CASBA
- voice the concerns of the members to the wider community
- seek to promote the rights of people who have a learning disability

Self-Advocacy is - the ability to speak-up for yourself and the things that are important to you. Self-advocacy means you are able to ask for what you need and want and tell people about your thoughts and feelings.

Self-advocacy means you know your rights and responsibilities, you speak-up for your rights, and you are able to make choices and decisions that affect your life.

The goal of self-advocacy is for YOU to decide what you want, then develop and carry out a plan to help you get it.

It does not mean you cannot get help if you need or want it, it just means that you are making the choices and you have to be responsible for the choices you make. - [What is Self-Advocacy \(selfadvocatenet.com\)](http://selfadvocatenet.com)

2. Volunteer role

Working with the volunteer coordinator, the volunteer will enable and support facilitation of a new self-advocacy group, by providing training and supporting the group in its objective to engage and empower successful self-advocates

We are looking for volunteers who:

- are determined and passionate about people with learning disabilities having a voice,
- will ensure that the voice of the self-advocacy group is being heard at all levels of the organisation and help the volunteer coordinator to prevent and address any obstacles to this happening
- have, or be willing, to develop group work skills
- have 3 to 4 hours a week available to meet with the group or individuals

You will need to:

- help self-advocates promote the group to new members and support their welcome into the group
- work with members of the group to set agendas and meeting notes into easy read format
- be available to meet with group members before they attend CASBA meetings to support them to fully participate in their discussions and activities
- help members to report back to the group at their next self-advocacy meeting
- to share and undertake activities with the self-advocacy group enabling them to meet deadlines or targets set by the group or others.

3. Commitment needed

You will need to be flexible in the times you are available for this role.

Most meetings and activities will happen during office hours, Monday to Friday.

You will be able to meet with most individuals on either Zoom, WhatsApp or face to face meetings.

It is expected as the spread of Covid-19 lessens we will hold more face-to-face meetings.

You will need to be available for 3 to 4 hours a week. However, a certain amount of flexibility will be required as the group develops.

We are open to this role being shared by more than one volunteer.

4. Previous experience

CASBA promotes the learning of new skills and gaining of new experiences across the organisation.

However, if you have enjoyed previous group facilitation experience or experience relating to adults with learning disabilities, preferably in a community setting, then this role could be for you.

5. Support given

We believe it is important that all our volunteers receive a full induction when volunteering with CASBA. This will include any training/mentoring or shadowing needed to support you.

You will be fully supported and supervised in your volunteer role by the performance and volunteer coordinator, with regular volunteer supervision sessions.

You will also receive invitations to attend quarterly volunteer feedback sessions, to give you opportunities to discuss any issues and share your concerns and skills with other volunteers on a regular basis.

CASBA is committed to ongoing development and training for all volunteers. CASBA will fund relevant training, subject to CASBA's volunteer budget/project funding.

6. To apply

If you wish to speak to the volunteer coordinator about this role, please leave a message on 0121 476 0777 for Becky the volunteer coordinator and she will get back to you.

Please find attached a volunteer application form. Please complete this and send it to:

Becky.jones@casba.org.uk

We will then ask you to come and meet with us to discuss your application to ensure this is the role for you. These discussions will be held on zoom with two or three others from CASBA.

Applications for this role will close on 31st August 2021.

Discussions on zoom will be held during the weeks of 6th and 13th September.

The role will begin in the week beginning 4th October, with induction and training.