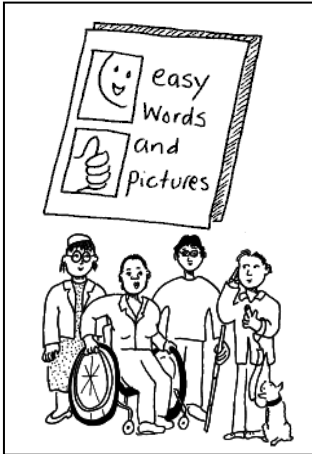


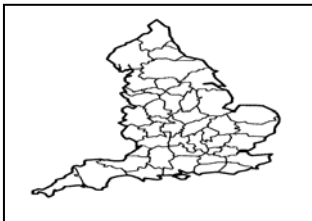
## Memorandum submitted by Bradford People First (HS 94)



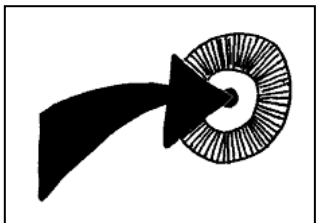
The Guidelines for writing this letter said for us to try not to use pictures. Unfortunately we use pictures and the easy read style to make the information understandable to ourselves and to other people with learning disabilities who may wish to read this. In view of this I hope you will allow us the use of pictures and easy read style so that we can have our voice. (1)



We are Bradford People First a Self Advocacy charitable organisation. The organisation is run by people with learning disabilities for people with learning disabilities. We are based in Bradford and represent people with learning disabilities in the Bradford Area. (2)



We also represent people with learning disabilities in the Yorkshire Region and throughout the UK when working on issues that affect all people with learning disabilities. (3)

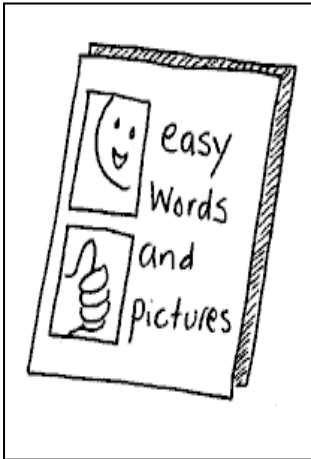


### Our Aims

- To promote the relief of people with learning disabilities through self-advocacy
- To promote the advancement of education of the public, professionals and people with learning disabilities in issues relating to learning disabilities.
- To improve the lives of everyone with a learning disability and make sure that people with learning disabilities are treated fairly and with respect (4).|



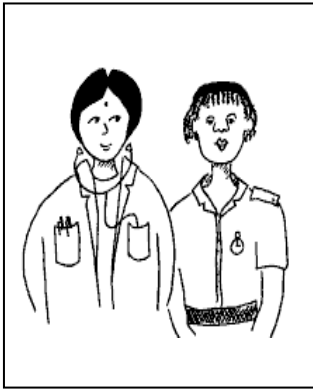
*This means:*



- Give help and support to people with learning disabilities through self-advocacy.
- Teach the public, professionals and people with learning disabilities about things that are important to other people with learning disabilities.
- Making the lives of people with a learning disability better and making sure they are treated fairly and with respect. (5)

The Government's Health and Social Care Bill  
(Changes to the National Health Service)  
What we would like you to be aware about.

### General Practitioners buying healthcare



We are worried that the GP's will not know what people with learning disabilities do and what they need to make their healthcare accessible. We think **all GP's should get learning disability training and people with learning disabilities locally should be a part of this.** If they do not they will be leaving people with learning disability out and providing them with an unfair and poor service. (6)



We are worried that GP's will not understand how important learning disability self advocacy groups are, in helping the local Health Services to make sure they are accessible for people with learning disabilities and that they are treated fairly. We think this is very important that the GP's do their job right and keep people with disabilities safe in the National Health Service. Learning Disability Self Advocacy groups are the key to this because the people with learning disability that run them have the best understanding and skills to know what is best for people with learning disabilities. (7)



## The need for Self Advocacy Services

There is a great need for self advocacy groups/organisations to support the National Health Service to run a fair, accessible and safe service for people with learning disabilities. (8)



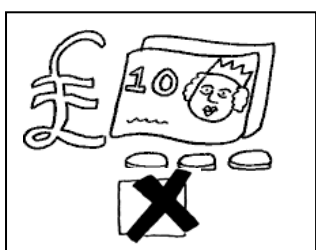
At **Bradford People First** we go out and speak to lots of other people with learning disabilities in the District and find out what they think about the services they are getting, such as Healthcare, Council, Police etc. (9)



We then feed this back to the big bosses and support services to become accessible. Without the self advocacy groups doing this, we would be worried that the voices of people with learning disabilities within the district would not be heard and the services would not be accessible. This would be wrong. (10)



We are also worried that if the GP's give no funding to the advocacy groups, these groups will be unable to continue supporting healthcare services to give an accessible service to people with learning disabilities around the country. (11)

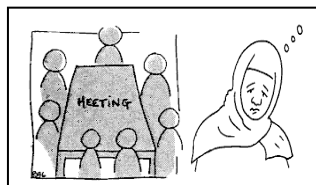


People with learning disabilities may then be under threat of being treated unfairly, as their will be no self advocates to carry out Learning disability awareness training to the healthcare staff, make information easy read or help local health services to be accessible. Gp's need to be made aware of the importance of self advocacy organisations in supporting them to make sure healthcare is accessible for people with learning disability. (12)



## Health Watch Meetings

**Making sure people with learning disability are included and have a voice**



We are worried that the way the Health Watch meetings are run, may mean that people with learning disabilities are left out and their views not heard. (13)



To make sure that people with Learning disabilities are included in the Health Watch meetings they will need to be accessible for people with learning disabilities. This includes the running of the meeting and the information.



We think that it is important that **Health Watch representatives have learning disability training** so that they can properly represent us. (14)

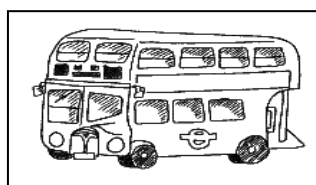


To help people with Learning disabilities to be properly represented we think that it is very important that **Health Watch representatives regularly visit advocacy organisations like Bradford People First**. This is so that extra time can be given to find out what people with learning disabilities have to say and to help with preparing for Health Watch meetings. (15)

Having more choice about the healthcare we get



We think it is really good that we are going to have more choice about things such as the GP surgery, Doctor, Hospital or treatment we want (16).

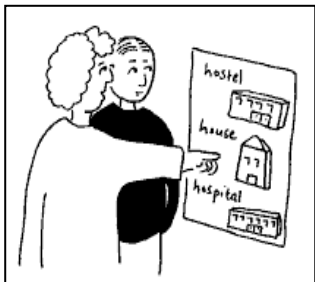


But we are worried that because a large amount of people with learning disabilities depend on public transport that they may not be able to access the Doctor, Hospital or

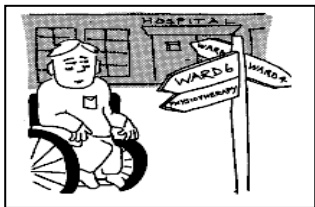
Surgery they want because of transport issues. This would be very unfair. We think the Government should look at ways to making the Transport to Healthcare of people's choice less of a hassle. (17)



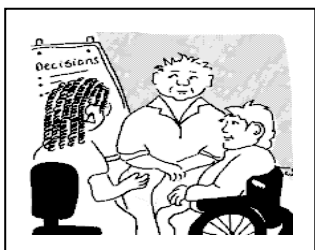
We are also worried that Doctors or nurses will not have the skills to support us to make the right choices and that they may be too busy to support us. Once again we think it is important that they have Learning disability awareness training and that they are aware of services that support people with learning disabilities such as learning disability citizen advocates. (18)



To help people with learning disabilities make choices about their Healthcare there will be information we will need to know about. This information needs to be accessible for people with learning disabilities. It also needs to be available in different ways. (19)



We think it is important that people with learning disabilities are involved in making the information accessible locally, because we know what is best for us. (20)



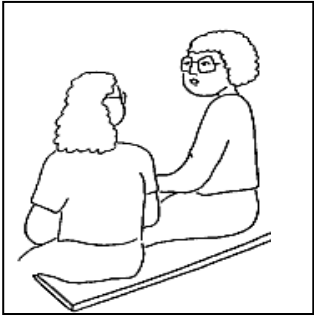
We are worried that people with learning disabilities may not be able to give feedback about what they think about the service they are getting locally, just because the ways of giving feedback is not accessible to them. (21)



Rather than just using a survey, that is not accessible for everyone with a learning disability. We think it is important to use different ways to find out what people think about a service they have used. (22)



A very good way of getting information from people with learning disabilities is by going out and talking to people face to face. This is because some people find it hard to read or understand information or put down in words what they think. (23)



We think people with learning disabilities as trained quality checkers would be a very good idea, as people with learning disabilities feel more comfortable talking to other people with similar disabilities, "because the person knows what you're going through, compared to someone without" and "you feel more relaxed and able to talk". (24)

5 things the Government want the National Health Service to get better

These are;



1. Stopping people from dying early
2. Making sure people with long-term illnesses have a better life
3. Helping people to get better quickly
4. Making sure people are happy being looked after by the National Health Service
5. Looked after people safely (25)



We think all these 5 things that the Government want to make better are important for people with learning disabilities, because people with learning disabilities have sometimes not been cared for properly in the National Health Service. (26)



Some people have even died because the hospitals did not know how to care for someone with learning disabilities. (27)



All our concerns and our ideas in this letter of how to make things better for people with learning disabilities supports and fits into the 5 things the Government want the National Health Service to get better at. We think the Government need to listen to what people with learning disabilities need to make sure we get a safe, equal and fair Healthcare. (28)

*March 2011*