

WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS DON'T DO

- ❖ Any personal hygiene or domiciliary type tasks
- ❖ Counselling (although talking is part of their role)
- ❖ Give specific advice
- ❖ Break confidentiality (unless they believe their partner or anyone else is in any danger)
- ❖ Tell their advocacy partner what to do
- ❖ Take on the role of a social or care worker
- ❖ Fill in gaps where services aren't being provided
- ❖ A mediator or 'go-between' in cases of a dispute



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We are a friendly, small team who all enjoy supporting our volunteers. We don't ask for experience, just a willingness to make a difference to people's lives and a tolerant, non-judgmental approach. We offer training and out-of-pocket expenses.

Our volunteers are given the opportunity to try out different volunteering roles to find out which type of work suits them best. You could help at one of our social groups or work with someone as part of an advocacy partnership.

HOW TO CONTACT US

If you want further information about the service we provide, please contact us.



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Acknowledgement: Pictures from "CHANGE Picture Bank

SOLIHULL ACTION THROUGH ADVOCACY

THE ROLE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS



Registered Charity - Citizen Advocacy Solihull - 1048856



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON OUR ORGANISATION

Solihull Action through Advocacy (SA+A) is a registered charity that provides a voice for adults with learning disabilities living in Solihull. In all our work, we are trying to create more control for people over their lives, ensuring their views and wishes are regarded as the most important.

OUR AIMS

- Promote positive change so that people with a learning disability are accepted and valued members of their local community.
- Support people to take more control over their own lives with more opportunity for choice.

FUNDING

We are funded by various funding sources, some statutory funding, including:
Solihull Care Trust, Comic Relief, Awards for All, Coventry Building Society, Sheldon Trust, Cole Trust, Eveson Trust, Land Rover, West Midland Police Authority, Browne Jacobson Trust, Jarman Trust, Co-operative Community Fund.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

At SA+A we have five staff members and our greatly aided in our work by approximately 20 dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers are a diverse group of people who help out in various settings.

Some volunteers help with our groups while others work in one-to-one advocacy partnerships. We greatly value their services and always aim to offer them interesting and worthwhile work.

If you come into contact with our volunteers (perhaps as a healthcare worker or as a family member to one of our clients), your support and assistance with our volunteers is greatly appreciated.

THE ROLE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS DO:

- ❖ speak up on behalf of their advocacy partner, or encourage them to do so for themselves.
- ❖ sometimes attend meetings, make phone calls or write letters as part of their advocacy role.
- ❖ go out with their partners (for lunch, coffee etc.) or just spend time with them in their home environment.
- ❖ If they need assistance with any part of their role, they can liaise with the Volunteer Co-ordinator

In short, volunteers get to know their advocacy partner, find out what their wishes are, and work to ensure that these wishes are taken notice of

It varies how much time volunteers spend with their advocacy partnerships but together they normally decide how often to meet and for how long.

