

People

First

a voice for people with learning difficulties



Our Manifesto

2024

'See Us, Hear Us, Value Us'

Our vision is of a UK which is free of barriers faced by people with learning difficulties:

- Where people with learning difficulties have real choice, control and independence.
- Where people with learning difficulties have access to user-led self-advocacy organisations, accessible information and the advocacy and support that they need to have real equality of opportunity and inclusion in society.



The 3 Pillars for access to independent living

Our members set our three main campaign priorities. They have come to be known as the 3 Pillars for Access to Independent Living.

These are the ways that we break down the barriers that they face and access all areas of society.

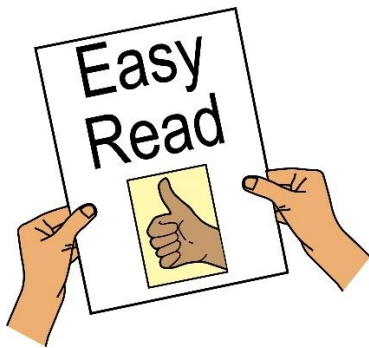
The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and made worse the inequalities that already existed for people with learning difficulties.

We want to be treated equally in all areas of our lives, and not live in fear of discrimination, exploitation and abuse.

We are calling on the government to support and invest in:



1. Self-advocacy and speaking up: Supporting the growth of user-led self-advocacy groups so that people with learning difficulties have the support to speak up, build confidence and break down barriers together.
Nothing about us without us!



2. Accessible information and Easy Read: Supporting access to information through more accessible, processes, digital platforms and wider use of Easy Read, so that people have the information they need to make decisions and have control.
Information is power!



3. Local community advocacy and support: Supporting access to good, flexible independent local advocacy and support that treats each person as a whole, so that people have the support to do what they want in life and have full access to society.
Don't break my life up into pieces!

To achieve these things we ask the Government to:



1. **See us** - we are the experts in our own lives, we need to be recognised for the things we can do and know.
2. **Hear us** - speak to us directly, listen to our voices, not just our supporters (PA's, carers, staff).
3. **Value us** – treat us all fairly, make sure people from Black and ethnic minorities do not face additional discrimination or criminalisation.
4. **Include us** – we have the right to be involved in all aspects of civil society, make sure we can understand and use all types of communications and technology.
5. **Free us** - do not lock us up away from our families and communities in hospitals and residential homes, keep to your promises to move people out of them and do not keep sending us into these places.
6. **Support us** - reinvest in independent community and self advocacy, provide the social care support so we can live as independently as possible.

These things can be achieved if the Government keeps their commitment to the Human Rights Act and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

We want the Government to protect the rights and dignity of all people with disabilities.

We still live in a country where some 'Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation' (DNA CPR) orders are put in place just because a person has a learning difficulty/disability.

[Learning Disabilities Mortality Review \(LeDeR\) Annual Report April 2023 to March 2023](#)



We deserve better – we have a right to live in a world where we are not locked away or written off!

June 2024

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www.peoplefirstltd.com