



ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

VOCAL INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY




We cannot change the past but we can learn from it

Lewis Carroll



How does independent advocacy learn from the past?

- ▶ What has history to tell us, what's the culture about people with learning disabilities speaking up for what they need?
- ▶ How are individuals who fight their corner viewed and what are their fears about how they are viewed?
- ▶ What do families tell us about he who pays the piper.....?




"It's not impossible only UNIMPOSSIBLE!"

From Alice in Wonderland





We know resources are limited but.....

- ▶ What happens if we're all compliant?
- ▶ Who are the most vulnerable when they can't or don't speak up? Real danger that resources are prioritised elsewhere.
- ▶ An independent advocate can say things that may be more difficult for others.



"The best gift you could have given her was a lifetime of adventures"

Mad Hatter



Independent advocacy and a "lifetime of adventures"

- ▶ Independence means that there can't be any agenda other than what the individual wants to achieve – that's what they are paying the advocate to help them fight for.
- ▶ Not about organisational needs, targets, economy of scale etc etc.
- ▶ Have to be the hatter and not the dormouse – conflict is inevitable!



Looking Glass Jabberwocky and Riddles

From Alice Through the Looking Glass



Independent Advocacy means it can all be understood.


- ▶ An independent advocate may be asked to support:-
 - ▶ - a person who family or carers find challenging.
 - ▶ - a person who does not speak or understand spoken language.
 - ▶ - a person whose communication is unique.
- ▶ The advocate must make sense of it all.




The Only Thing Worth
Doing is What We Do For
Others

Lewis Carroll








ABSOLEMa caterpillar turned butterfly and friend to Alice who leads her through the Looking Glass & informs that there are matters which require her attention





“There are matters which would benefit
from [VOCAL’s] attention....HURRY!”
(from Absolem in Alice Through the Looking Glass)



WHOPeter
“You can do itimpossible things are possible”
(Lewis Carroll)


- VOCAL invited by Peter’s family to offer independent advocacy to help Peter.....
 -  take Big Decisions about his life
 -  take more control of his life
 -  build his confidence to speak out for himself
 -  make sure his views & wishes are listened to & heard when big decisions are being made











WHATPeter's Dreams

"Dreams Can Become Reality" Lewis Carroll









-  to live more independently from his mum & dad
-  to employ someone to assist him in his new home
-  to find someone to share his love of country music, country dances & festivals
-  to find a girlfriend
-  to pass his theory test & get his own car




HOWVOCAL's ROLE

"Only thing worth doing is what we do for others" (Lewis Carroll)









-  Ronnie shares his own real life experiences with Peter & what is possible
-  Ronnie helps Peter to understand what it means to have his own home & the right amount of help
-  Ronnie encourages Peter to say what he thinks & tell people what he wants to happen in his life
-  Gina uses her experience to assist Peter & his family to get the money they need to employ his own personal assistant
-  Gina helps Robert to let people know.....
 - the type of person he wants to work with him
 - what things he wants to achieve in his life



Independent Advocacy Through the Looking Glass

"You're mad. Bonkers. Off you're head...all of the best people are" (Lewis Carroll)



-  use of individualised budgets to purchase good quality, creative, flexible, "thinking out of the box" independent advocacy
-  loyalty & attention on the person & what is important to them
-  helping people to tell it like it is to get the life they want
-  bringing added value – advocates & co workers sharing their knowledge & experiences to help people see what is possible
-  and finally, some words of advice from Lewis Carroll for independent advocates.....
"a SMILE makes people wonder what you are up to!"
