

## **Response from Cardiff People First 4 October 2019**

We are happy that the current Welsh Government thinks that it is important that people with a learning disability have more control of their lives.

But we know that governments can change and have different priorities, and without the protection of a Commissioner to stand up on behalf of self advocacy, and on behalf of individuals, there is no guarantee of self advocacy being a priority in future.

We also know that self advocacy organisations are in danger all across Wales, and they are the only way that individuals can have a true voice of their own. If there is no self advocacy organisation that can support an individual, then they have no way of challenging the decisions of their local authority in denying them advocacy.

We know that in local authorities across Wales the voices of people with a learning disability are still being ignored, services are run for them rather than by them and their voice is being taken away.

Please ask the Minister:

- how he can measure how well a local authority is actually implementing their duties under the SSWB Wales Act
- how many people with a learning disability are employed by each local authority, and how many of those are employed in roles that impact on policy
- how, in practice, can an individual with a learning disability challenge a decision by a local authority under the SSWB Wales Act ? And what steps are being taken to ensure that every individual with a learning disability in Wales is aware of this procedure and able to use it?

We would also like to make the Minister aware that All Wales People First will be having a national consultation on supporting the call for a Learning Disability Commissioner in Wales, as their membership has previously fully supported it.