

Please use the space below to share the good work that you have done with the Advocacy Sparks money. We will be sharing this information on our website so other people can see how you have improved advocacy in your area.

## Advocacy and Leadership Project

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| Name of your project  | Advocacy drop in meetings  |
|   | <p>Who you are and what you do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain about what we have asked you to do</li> </ul> <p>We are Manchester mencap. We are connected to Royal mencap but we don't get any money from them. We represent the rights and interests of people with learning disabilities and their families in Manchester.</p> <p>We provide crisis and citizen advocacy for people who live in Manchester and have a named care manager.</p>   |
|  | <p>What did you get the Advocacy Sparks money for?</p> <p>The money was to help with citizen advocacy.</p> <p>Sometimes people have to wait a while until we find the right person to be their citizen advocate. We wanted to have some advocacy drop in meetings so people can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find out more about the different types of advocacy</li> <li>• Talk about how advocacy has helped them</li> <li>• Have a chat and get support if needed</li> <li>• Identify other issues people want to talk about</li> </ul> |



How did your project make advocacy stronger?

- We talked about the different types of advocacy and how advocacy can help you
- We gave people an advocacy information pack
- The local authority were consulting people about proposed changes to services. Many people were worried about this and didn't feel they had the opportunity to have a say. We talked about this at one of our meetings. We wrote to Manchester Council to tell them what people said about the changes.
- We talked about what makes a good advocate. We've used the things people said to write a job description for citizen advocates.



What went well?

Everyone said they really enjoyed the drop in meetings and want to carry on with them.

We wrote ideas about what makes a good advocate and stuck these on big pictures of batman & robin.

We played some icebreaker games to make sure everyone had the chance to join in

The church community centre where we held 2 of the drop in meetings said we can carry on using the Room for free.



What would you do differently if you did it again?

We sent a letter with the dates of the meetings. Unfortunately this didn't work well as quite a few people forgot the date of the second meeting.

At the end of the meeting we will give people the date Of the next meeting

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|     | <p>Is your project continuing after you have spent the Advocacy Sparks money?</p> <p>Everyone said they want the meetings to carry on. I will be leaving shortly there will be a new Citizen Advocacy Coordinator so the meetings can carry on.</p>                             |
|   | <p>How many people were involved?</p> <p>40 people</p>  |
|   | <p>How did you tell people about your project?</p> <p>We wrote a letter to everyone with dates of the meetings. We did a poster for the day centre meeting.</p>   |
|  | <p>How to contact your group:</p> <p>Address: Manchester mencap<br/> Crossacres Resource Centre<br/> 1 Peel Hall Road<br/> Manchester M22 5DG</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:mencapmanchester@btconnect.com">mencapmanchester@btconnect.com</a><br/> Twitter:<br/> Facebook:</p> |