

**INCLUSION**  
**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
BIGGER DREAMS ▶ BETTER LIVES ▶ BRIGHTER FUTURES



# Your Voice Network Meeting Minutes



**Your Voice**

The South West Self-Advocacy Network

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>  
August 2023**

**INCLUSION**  
**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
BIGGER DREAMS ▶ BETTER LIVES ▶ BRIGHTER FUTURES

**Devon**  
County Council



**Devon People First**

The voice of learning  
disability

People from these groups came to the meeting

# We talked about:



Cody and Kayleigh did a presentation about personal assistants or PAs.



They told us that personal assistants can do many things to support people like helping with paperwork and cooking.



Having a personal assistant can be good because you can choose the right person to support you.



It can be good because they can support you at a time that is best for you.



But it can be hard having a personal assistant because you have to be their boss.



It can be hard because you need to find someone else to support you if they are sick or on holiday.



When you interview a personal assistant you might ask questions about how you want to be supported.



You can ask what hobbies they have to see if they match yours.



It is important to do a DBS check to see if they have ever been in trouble with the police.

## What people said:



Tim said that personal assistants can help with tax and other paperwork.



One person said they had a personal assistant and it was good as they could take them in their car to places buses did not go.



Lloyd said personal assistants are good if you can find the right person.



Kayleigh said it can depend on having enough support hours as not many people can afford to only work a few hours a week.



Tim wondered if it was better to have a personal assistant who was experienced or one who had qualifications.



Lloyd said it can be hard to know if someone is good at the job until they start doing it.



You can find out if someone is right for the job by giving them a trial.



One person employed a new personal assistant who seemed good but during their trial they did not get on. So they asked them to leave.



Kayleigh said that social services give you money to pay for your personal assistant but you pay some money for them too.



You also have to pay for a personal assistant's petrol and insurance.



If you have a personal assistant it is important to have respect for them and be flexible if you can.

# Updates:



Devon co-production group are making a workshop that they will try out with the Friendship group.



Nicole has applied for a job delivering Oliver McGowan training. Good luck Nicole!



Tim went to a celebration event for the Oliver McGowan training in London. He met Oliver's parents.

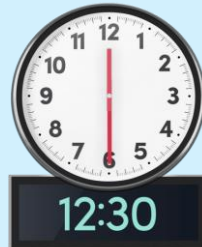


The Friendship group in Devon said when there are late train cancellations no other transport is put on and they have to sleep at the train station.



# The next Your Voice meetings are:

The network meeting is on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September** at 12:30pm



The coffee morning is on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August** at 11:00 am



The next meeting is about getting information in a way you understand.

Here are some things to think about:



- If you have an appointment do you prefer a letter, a phone call, an email or a text to tell you about it?



- What happens if you don't understand a letter, email, phone call or text?