

Self-advocates as Directors of your organisation



INCLUSION IRELAND

National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability

A Resource Document made by Inclusion Ireland



This document was made by two self advocates, Martin Rowan and Phil Davy who are members of the Board of Directors of Inclusion Ireland, with support from their support person Catherine O'Leary in 2016 www.inclusionireland.ie

What is self- advocacy?



Self-advocacy is speaking up for yourself.



Self-advocacy is a way of doing something so people have more of a say in their lives.

What is a Director?



A Director is an important person in an organisation.

They make sure things are being done the right way.

They tell other people about the work of the organisation.

Why should self-advocates be Directors?



Self-advocates know what it is like to have a disability.

Self-advocates know what is important to people who have disabilities.



It is fair. Self-advocates should have a say in their lives.

What does a Director have to do?



A Director goes to Board meetings.

All the other people there are also Directors.

The group is called the Board of Directors.

What happens at meetings?



There is a plan for every meeting. This is called the agenda.

Directors talk about the issues on the agenda.



Self-advocates take part in the conversations.

Jobs for Directors:



Listen to information about the work the organisation is doing.



Tell the Board of Directors if you do not agree with what the organisation is doing.



Tell the other Directors what is important to people with disabilities.

Other jobs for Directors:



Make sure that the organisation has enough money to pay for what they are doing.



If you want, you can get help to understand information about money and other issues.

Making it a good experience for self-advocates:



Self-advocates may want some support to be Directors.

Directors should always decide for themselves what support they would like.



If they would like a support person, they should choose who it is.

Who should be the support person?



The support person should have experience supporting people with disabilities.



The support person should not work for the organisation.

Before a meeting



A support person can meet the Directors a few days **before** the meeting.



The support person will make sure paperwork is Easy to Read.

The support person can go through any paperwork with the Directors.

During the meetings



The support person can help the Director take part in meetings.

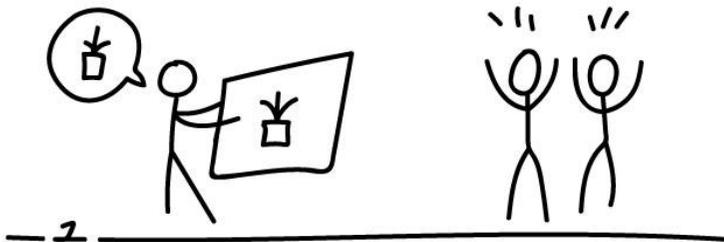
The support person can explain any information that is difficult to understand.



The Director or the support person can ask for a break if they need one.

During the meetings

The support person can explain things using:

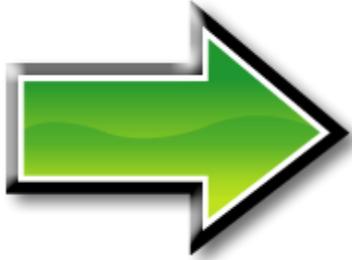


- Words

- Writing

- Drawings

After the meetings



The Directors and the support person can meet again.

They can talk about what happened in the meeting.



They can ask questions about what happened too.

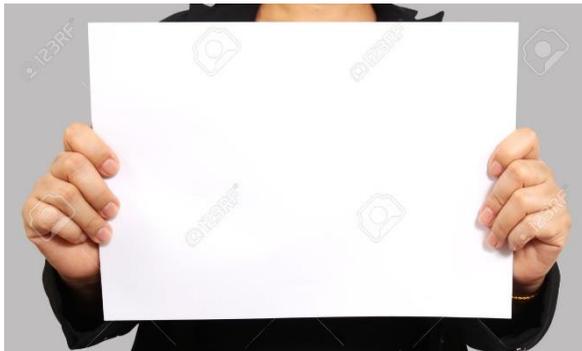
I want my organisation to have self-advocates as Directors.

What should I do?



Talk to the person in charge of your organisation.

Tell them why you think self-advocates should be Directors.



You can show them this resource. You can contact Inclusion Ireland for advice.

www.inclusionireland.ie Phone: 01 8559891