

# PLACE & PARTNERSHIP WORKING

## Speak Up Be Heard

### The Challenge

A core part of Wirral Evolutions ambition for an inclusive design approach is to place people we support at the heart of everything we do. Crucially the Company's journey is dependent on the increased involvement of the people we support, as the main stakeholders, to develop partnerships and enable the opportunity to influence service provision from increased involvement from people by experience.

### Steps Taken

- ✓ In 2019 we established **Speak Up Be Heard** with representatives from our different locations in partnership with Together All Are Able (TAAA), an external self-advocacy group
- ✓ Between 15-20 people we support from were brought together, with representatives from each location and were supported and empowered to begin meeting on a monthly basis
- ✓ People with more complex needs were supported to make contributions and play an active part of the group
- ✓ Capacity was provided for minute recording and easy read formats were produced
- ✓ Together All Are Able hosted a workshop on self-advocacy to help develop skills, confidence and provide greater understanding of the benefits of self-advocacy

### The difference made

- ✓ Group and individuals confidence and decision making has grown in strength enabling more control over their life choices
- ✓ By working together, Speak Up Be Heard are empowered to shared ideas, make suggestions for improvements and were able to plan a development day to determine their priorities for the next 12 months
- ✓ Actively involved with co-productive recruitment process of care support staff
- ✓ Provided a vital voice in the Mencap service evaluation consultation workshop
- ✓ Provided a vital voice on behalf of people with learning disabilities in Wirral Council strategy 2030
- ✓ Speaking up with confidence to Wirral Council commissioning team regarding transport challenges that people with learning disability face
- ✓ Promoted self-advocacy and shared rights, learnings and experiences together
- ✓ Represented Speak Up Be Heard at regional and national conferencing and events, gaining valuable life skills experience, social interaction with peers and sharing best practices

“Since being part of Speak Up Be Heard my confidence has got better and I can speak out more.” – LL