**Position Statement**

****

**Easy Read**

Good quality Easy Read gives us the important information we need in a way we can understand it. There should be enough information so that nothing important is missed out, but not too much information to be confusing.

The way information is presented to us often excludes us from understanding things for ourselves and being able to have our voices heard. For example, in our personal lives we receive letters which are not easy read. It means that we miss appointments and other things which are important.

When it comes to Political matters and public affairs we have opinions. Consultations are often released without an Easy Read version, or the Easy Read version is released much later than other versions. We have lots to say and share, but complicated words and long text mean that we can’t understand and join in.

Having No Easy Read, poor quality Easy Read or late Easy Read are big barriers to inclusion for us. We need enough time to read and understand information and to ask for support if we need it.

Having accessible information in good time means that we as

self-advocates with learning disabilities can participate actively in society. It helps us to get around safely and on time, to make our own choices about things which affect us, and have our voices heard.

Accessible information is crucial in all parts of our lives, from medical appointment letters, bus timetables to Government Consultation documents. We want to be included in everything which affects us. Nothing about us without us!

**Our calls:**

We need enough time to respond to things. That means we need information in Easy Read and no tight deadlines.

Information in Easy Read must be made available at the same time as standard version information.

Quality-check all Easy Read documents with people with learning disabilities

When you consult with us, make sure you include all of the important information and don’t leave crucial things out.

When you consult with us, don’t ask us leading questions.

Write to us in Easy Read, not to our ‘carer’.

Make sure information about accessing and using all sorts of services is easy to understand.

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**

Tracy Austin, Chair of the All Wales People First, National Council

In consultation with the All Wales People National Council.

