



The Friendly Information Company - My Energy - My Life

OVERVIEW

The Friendly Information Company aims to educate people with learning disabilities in self-advocacy, helping them to speak up for themselves. It makes friendly, accessible information available which is simple to understand, and they try to create employment opportunities for all.

They also organise peer and self-advocacy forums and focus groups, enabling people to give their ideas around creating better services. They help to give people real opportunities to understand issues and make informed choices, and produce everything from broadcast standard DVDs, easy read presentations and games and reports, on important issues affecting the lives of people with learning disabilities.

SOLUTION

The project aimed to continue the Company's work supporting the most vulnerable people in society, with help around budgeting, saving energy, paying energy bills and using top up meters.

The project would provide training and one-to-one support to people with learning disabilities, including young people who are moving to live independently. Beneficiaries would be supported in understanding their energy bills, choosing the right supplier or energy tariff and checking their benefits.

OUTCOMES

The project sought to provide training and one-to-one support to people with learning disabilities, including young people who are moving to live independently. Beneficiaries were given help to understand their energy bills, choose the right supplier or energy tariff and to check their benefits.

The project has worked with 160 clients to date and the Company expected to exceed a target of 200 by the end of May 2018. The team have created a training pack as well as an accessible resource to support vulnerable people who experience difficulties accessing mainstream information about energy efficiency and keeping warm.

There will also be a wider impact, as the resources will be promoted through advocacy networks that extend throughout the UK. 'Keep out of fuel poverty tips' and other resources will be distributed through local libraries and learning disability services for households that do not have access to the internet.

OBJECTIVES

To continue the Company's work supporting the most vulnerable people in society. The funding has helped those who face social isolation, lack of support and are at risk of crisis due to poverty and poor education – supporting them with advice around budgeting, saving energy, energy bills and using top up meters.

MORE DETAILS BOX OUT

Project title: My Energy - My Life

Group name: The Friendly Information Company

Theme: Reducing energy

Area of benefit: Rotherham

Duration: 12 months