

## What Partners Graduates say:

“Each month I began to look forward to the next session – it was really worth the effort.”

“I am still raving about Partners to everyone...”

“I learned that if you want to change the system, you have to find out how to work with it.”

“I made lots of great friends and allies ... the future looks so much brighter – thank you!!”

“It's been a busy year and a steep learning curve, but I wouldn't change a thing about it.”



## How do I apply?

To receive an application form, or just for a chat to find out more, please contact:

Jo Hough



Telephone:

**01279 833 492**



Mobile / Text:

**07976 644 068**



Email:

[joanne@inclusionpartnership.org.uk](mailto:joanne@inclusionpartnership.org.uk)

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# Partners in Policymaking<sup>®</sup>

(Eastern Region)

**A leadership development training programme for disabled adults and parents of disabled children...**



**A way to make a difference...**

*Partners in Policymaking (Eastern Region) is organised and presented by the Inclusion Partnership*

## What is Partners in Policymaking about?

The course covers the following subjects:

**History** – the ways disabled people have been treated, the history of services, self-advocacy, and independent living movement.

**Education** – productive strategies for including children with disabilities and preparing for adult life (transition).

**Whole Life Planning** – looking at what children and adults with disabilities will need as they get older. Includes person centred planning, circles of support, and independent supported living.

**Employment** – How people with disabilities, especially those with substantial disabilities, can be enabled to do a job with the right training and support.

**Assistive Technology** – How technology can help mobility, communication, self care and employment.

**Supported Living** – What it takes to create a positive home environment for adults with disabilities.

**Policy development** – How decisions on service provision are made and how to influence them, locally and nationally.

**Advocacy** – Finding out about relevant legislation; how to change policies; meeting officials; use of the media; community organising.

## How can Partners in Policymaking help me?



The course offers participants a tool-kit of up-to-date information about rights, laws, and policies.



It gives people the skills and confidence to go to meetings and speak up for themselves and others.



It helps disabled people and parents of disabled children to plan positively for the future.



It helps to build useful links between disabled people and the people who work in the services that they use.



It helps policy makers to understand what disabled people want and need, so that they can plan and provide better services.

## What happens on the course?



You will join a class of disabled people and parents of disabled children for 8 training sessions, once per month. At each session, everyone stays at the hotel for two days, making friends and learning together. The training, meals and accommodation are FREE of charge.



You will be taught by experts about how to deal with the disability issues that people face as they grow up and go through life. Many of the speakers are disabled people who have made great changes in their lives.



You will learn new skills, such as how to make meetings work for you, and how to get policy makers to listen to your ideas.



At the end of the course, you become a member of a national support network of Partners graduates.