



Ambassador Volunteer



Hi, my name is Vikki and I have recently trained as an Ambassador Volunteer.

An Ambassador volunteer is intended to be a link for their local community available to signpost families to information, advice and support, particularly around special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and to also ensure the voices of parents are heard.

As an Ambassador Volunteer I will be building links within my own community and connecting to a network across Devon. I will actively cascade information in my own community network from; Devon Information, Advice and Support Service (**DiAS**) and the **Parent Carer Forum Devon**. I will also be a link in our community to help ensure the voices of our parents in our area are heard and can influence changes to policy and practice.

I am halfway through a BSc (Hons) Psychology degree with the Open University and I intend to go on to do a Masters and eventually PhD! I also hold a Certificate of Higher Education, a Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Autism, a Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties, and a Pathological Demand Avoidance Diploma. I am also currently studying a course in ADHD Awareness.

However, my experience with disabilities is not just academic. I have two children, one of whom has an Autism diagnosis and other comorbid difficulties and the other has a physical disability called Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. I home educate one of my children, while the other attends a mainstream setting. I am a regular attendee at Ilfracombe Parent Carer Support Group.

I am passionate about accessibility for disabled children and their families. I've had negative experiences myself when trying to access shops, business and attractions with my own children and have plans to set up a group of parents and carers to meet with businesses and attractions to help them to become more disability aware and therefore more accessible.

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For more information about the Ambassador Volunteer Project: If you are interested and would like to know how you could find out more about the project or become an Ambassador volunteer, please get in touch! **Megan Kenneally-Stone, Ambassador Volunteer Coordinator,** megan.kenneallystone@devon.gov.uk, **07815490088**