

1

WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy is designed to empower people to have a voice.

Some people have difficulties taking part in the decision-making processes linked to health and social care matters. This could be for a variety of reasons, including having a learning disability, mental or physical health issues, or being very elderly or frail.

Independent Advocates can explore all of the choices and options that are available, so that the best possible decisions can be made to safeguard the individual and help protect them from avoidable abuse or neglect.

2

THE CARE ACT 2014 & ADVOCACY

The Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance (7.4) states there is a duty to arrange an Independent Advocate for adults to enable those who may otherwise have (1) "substantial difficulty" in being involved if there is (2) "no appropriate individual available to support and represent the person's wishes".

s.9 Needs Assessment. s.10 Carer's Assessment. s.25 The preparation of a Care and Support Plan or Support Plan. s.27 A review of Care and Support Plan or Support Plan. s.42 Safeguarding Enquiry. s.44 Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR).

3

When to Refer

The local authority can refer adults for advocacy support for any stage, of any of the following:

s.9 Needs Assessment.
s.10 Carer's Assessment.
s.25 The preparation of a Care and Support Plan or Support Plan.
s.27 A review of Care and Support Plan or Support Plan. s.42 Safeguarding Enquiry.
s.44 Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR).

4

Why Advocacy matters in Safeguarding.

It is important that the adult is supported if they meet the two qualifying criteria in what can be a daunting process that sometimes requires difficult decisions to be made. An adult who may have been the victim of serious and multiple forms of abuse might be so demoralized or frightened especially if those that caused harm are family members.

7

Community Advocacy Services



Tele 01582 314 183,
Email - Advocacy 1st
advocacy@communityconnex.co.uk



6

IMCAs can be instructed for adult safeguarding cases

Protective measures proposed or undertaken.
Lack capacity for proposed protective measures.
Clear benefit to the client.
For victims or person(s) suspected to have caused harm.
Regardless of family/friends involvement.
Intractable conflict of views.
Client strongly indicates their views are not being taken into consideration by the decision maker.

5

INDEPENDENT MENTAL CAPACITY ADVOCACY (IMCA)

There is a legal duty for an IMCA to be instructed where: There is a decision to be made regarding either Serious Medical Treatment (SMT) or Change of Accommodation (COA). AND The person has been deemed not to have time and issue specific capacity to make that decision. AND The person has no close family or friends who are appropriate or practical to consult.