



## One minute guide

### Safeguarding and Advocacy

October 2019

#### Why advocacy?

Local authorities have a duty to involve people in decisions made about them and their care and support. The ethos of making safeguarding personal means that no matter how complex a person's needs people must express their wishes, be supported in making their own decisions and have a say in what happens to them. Advocacy is part of the Care Act 2014 and brings into legislation the spirit of person-centred practice which involves and empowers service users. Advocacy helps people to:

Have their voice heard

Communicate their views and wishes

Be involved in decision making

Have their rights respected

#### Who can have an advocate?

The Care Act 2014 says that the duty to provide advocacy applies to:

Adults who need care and support

Carers of adults and carers in transition

Children who are approaching the transition to adult care and support. Where a child's needs assessment is carried out, and when a young carer's assessment is undertaken.

However, the following conditions must also be met:

1. The person has substantial difficulty in being fully involved within assessment, care and supporting planning and review or safeguarding, and
2. There is no-one appropriate and available to support and represent their wishes

### What an advocate should not do:

Speak on behalf of someone who can speak for themselves

Make decisions on behalf of an individual

Provide care or support to meet an individual's needs

Befriend someone or offer social support

Take over an issue and solve it on someone's behalf

Mediate or provide any type of counselling

There are different types of advocates to meet peoples' specific needs – for example, some advocates specialise in mental capacity, mental health and complaints, as well as advocates who support individuals under the general framework of the Care Act 2014.

### The Coventry advocacy story last year...

In 2018/19 advocates supported 301 individuals under the Care Act 2014 and as Independent Mental Capacity Advocates. The majority of work advocates undertook with individuals was safeguarding support and supporting service users at assessments and reviews. Some feedback from service users was:

"You told me what is going on"

"Thank you for your support and explaining things".



If you are working with or know someone who would benefit from an advocate, or to find out more visit

<http://www.voiceability.org>

for information and to access the referral form.

Enquiries can be sent to [cwadvocacy@voiceability.org](mailto:cwadvocacy@voiceability.org)