



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI416172726

Thank you for your request for information relating to statutory advocacy.

You have requested the following information:

1. How does the Local Authority define statutory advocacy?

Adults:

The requirements for the provision of independent advocacy are set out in the Care and Support (Independent Advocacy) Regulations 2014. The Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance Chapter 7 also sets out the Local Authority responsibilities to provide independent advocacy.

Local Authorities, and/or its Operational Partners, must involve people in decision made about them and their care and support. The duty to involve applies in all settings, including for those people living in the community and in care homes.

There are duties to arrange an independent advocate for all adults:

- As part of their own assessment and care planning and care reviews and to those in their role as carers.
- Adults who are subject to a safeguarding enquiry or SARww.staffordshire.gov.uk
- Applies also to children who are approaching the transition to adult care and support, when a child's needs assessment is carried out, and when a young carer's assessment is undertaken.

Local Authorities must arrange an independent advocate to support and represent the person if two

conditions are met:

That if an independent advocate were not provided then the person would have substantial difficulty in being fully involved in these processes and there is no appropriate individual available to support and represent the person's wishes that is not paid or professionally engaged in providing care or treatment to the person or their carer.

Some of the people who qualify for advocacy under the Care Act will also qualify for advocacy under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The same advocate may provide support as an advocate under the Care Act and under the Mental Capacity Act. This is to enable the person to receive seamless advocacy and not to have to repeat their story to different advocates. Under whichever legislation the advocate providing support is acting, they should meet the appropriate requirements for an advocate under that legislation.

Children's:

The provision of advocacy and IV is a statutory duty. The Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to provide advocacy for children who want to make a complaint or request a change in the service they are receiving. The Act also requires that the local authority considers the appointment of an independent visitor for a LAC where it appears that it would be in the child's interests to do so. The criteria for this includes consideration of the contact the child has with their parents/family, whether the child is placed at a distance from home, and whether an IV would promote the child's health and education. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 broadened the criteria for the service to include all LAC where it would be in the interests of the child to have an IV, and also gave discretion to support a young person up to the age of 21. Coventry provides access to this service to care leavers up to the age of 25 who may benefit from services other children have access to, in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The Coventry advocacy service provides information, advice and advocacy to children and young people who receive a social care service to ensure their voices are heard and promote their rights.

The advocacy service is available to:

- Looked After Children, including those placed out of city.
- Care Leavers, including those placed out of city.
- Children on Child Protection plans who are attending a Child Protection Conference.
- Children attending a Family Group Conference.
- Any child open to social care who wants to make a complaint.
- 16- and 17-year-old young people who are homeless.

The advocacy service helps children with the following issues:

- Support for a meeting
- Care plans
- Contact
- Education
- Making a complaint
- Placements/accommodation
- Relationships with carers/social workers
- Non-instructed advocacy (LAC)

2. Who provides your statutory advocacy services? Please be inclusive of all statutory advocacy services in your response.

Adults:

Coventry Council have commissioned VoiceAbility to deliver the following statutory advocacy services:

- Care and Support Statutory Advocacy (Care Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy)
- Health Advocacy (Independent Mental Health Advocacy)

Children's:

The current provider of the Advocacy and IV service is Barnardo's.

3. How much has the Local Authority spent on statutory advocacy services each year over the last 10 years, broken down by year and service?

Adults:

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
£393,699	£321,878	£388,888	£505,112	£461,726	£247,064	£281,198	£297,100	£271,000

Children's:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
£135,000	£132,500	£121,321	£125,336	£125,000	£125,000	£125,000

For years prior to 2015 we confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

4. How many people have received statutory advocacy services each year over the last 10 years, broken down by year and service?

Adults: see attached spreadsheet.

Children's:

Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Advocacy	200	185	208	154	153

For prior to 2017/18 we confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

5. How many people have received non-statutory advocacy services each year over the last 10 years, broken down by year and service?

For Questions 4 and 5, please see the attached for information relating to adults.

For Children's, we confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section

1(1) of the Act. This information is not held.

6. How does the Local Authority assess the level of need for statutory advocacy services?

Adults:

A review of statutory advocacy services predicted demand versus actual usage data is monitored quarterly with a view to predicting forward demand.

Children's:

The level of service offer is based on assessed historical and forecasted data of the groups the service is open to:

- Looked After Children, including those placed out of city.
- Care Leavers, including those placed out of city.
- Children on Child Protection plans who are attending a Child Protection Conference.
- Children attending a Family Group Conference.
- Any child open to social care who wants to make a complaint.
- 16- and 17-year-old young people who are homeless.

The criteria for this includes consideration of the contact the child has with their parents/family, whether the child is placed at a distance from home, and whether an IV would promote the child's health and education. Data on the referrals is monitored quarterly to ensure that the service is able to meet demand.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance

Sum of Amount Row Labels	Financial Year									
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Grand Total
Care Act	313,301	281,478	273,038	389,262	386,276	67,175	120,171	136,073	115,644	2,082,418
IMCA / IMHA & Non Stat IMHA		40,400	40,400	40,400		142,164	161,027	161,027	161,027	746,445
Non Stat (IMHA)	80,398		75,450	75,450	75,450	37,725				344,473
Grand Total	393,699	321,878	388,888	505,112	461,726	247,064	281,198	297,100	276,671	3,173,336

Coventry care and support
and health contract data

Statutory Advocacy	Year							
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022
Care Act	-	0	215	257	220	73	138	128
Hospital	58	0	24	36	0	0	0	0
IMCA	106	256	272	286	141	140	167	143
IMHA	138	356	295	328	236	279	407	420
RPR		0	0		117	169	170	131
Rule 1.2		0	0		0	0	1 0	3 0
Non Stat General	333	349	367	266	253	271	151	148
Total	635	961	1173	1173	967	932	1034	973