

## Care Act 2014: Commissioning independent advocacy – easy read summary

- The Care Act is a new law that means councils must have an **independent** advocacy service for people who find it difficult to have a say in their care and services and do not have someone to help them with this.



Independent means the service is not controlled by the council and only thinks about what the people they are helping want.



- Independent advocacy is about giving people as much control as possible in their lives. It helps people understand information, say what they want and what they need and get the services they need.

- Advocates work with people as partners and are always on their side.



- Advocacy helps people in general and helps everyone to live together. It helps people to be part of things, be equal with other people and get their rights.

- The new law means more people are likely to use advocacy and councils will need to plan for this. This might be hard because there will be times when there are more people using advocacy services and times when there are not so many.

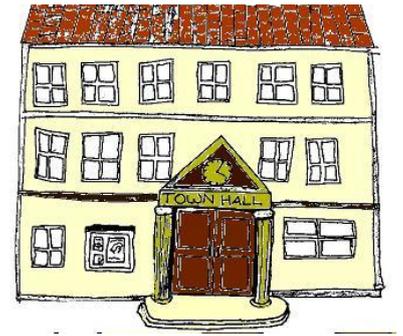


- Councils already have to have some advocacy services.

These services are called Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy, Independent Mental Health Advocacy and NHS

**Complaints** Advocacy. Some councils also have other advocacy services as they think they would be useful for people.

Complaint means saying that something is wrong with a service and asking for it to be sorted out.



When councils are thinking about what the Care Act says advocacy services they should use what is already there and work with organisations who already do advocacy.

- The councils should make sure the organisations they pay to run advocacy services under the Care Act can be flexible and can give help to all the people that need it. A lot more people are likely to use advocacy services when the Care Act takes effect in April 2015.





- Councils should get as much information as possible about advocacy services so they can plan for the future.

- They should use this information to help them work out who should run advocacy services, how they work out who needs advocacy, how advocacy services should work and working out where new services are needed.



- Training is important for everyone who is working on advocacy services including the people in the council who choose the organisations to run the services. They need to know about everything the law says the council has to do including how people first get advocacy, how advocacy works and how people get the service.

- It is best for councils to do all these things using **co-production** with local people who use services and carers. It is also important to work with organisations that run advocacy services or might run them in the future.



Co-production means working together with people who use services and carers as equal partners.

This is version 1.

## Supporting implementation of the Care Act 2014



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