



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

ECAY5008: Advocacy and Activism in the 21st Century

Theme 1: Historical Context

Part 1 - Advocacy

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Historical Foundations of modern Advocacy: Links to Activism

Defining Advocacy

- The changing Landscape of advocacy often starts with what Atkinson (1999, p15) describes as 'a deceptively simple question', namely:

What is Advocacy?



What is Advocacy?

- Advocacy is a changing and contested field of activity
- There are many disagreements about what should fall within the scope and what should not.
- A single definition is hard to find.
- To fully understand what advocacy is, we are required to:
 - Have an appreciation for the context within which it takes place
 - Understand it's aims and purposes and
 - The values which inform it
 - And the historical roots from which it comes.

(Wilks, 2012)

Advocacy and Social Work

- Advocacy is historically interwoven with the development of social work and social care.
- The origins of social work lie in attempts to address the causes of, and alleviate the consequences of, poverty.
- Efforts were made through Charity Organisations and the distribution of charitable support to the deserving poor (e.g. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation in the UK)
- Even in the infancy of social work, it was acknowledged that **social change** would be needed to challenge cycles of deprivation and systems of inequality.

(Payne, 2005)



Activism or Advocacy?

The Settlement Movement

The Settlement Movement

- The settlement movement began in 1884, with the founding of London's Toynbee Hall by curate Samuel Barnett and his wife, Henrietta.
- Toynbee Hall had a mission to serve the poor.
- The innovative idea included bringing university students from the elite social class, to live and work alongside the underprivileged poor.

(Smith, 2005)



The Settlement Movement

- In the late nineteenth century London was rife with crime with widespread effects of industrialisation, urbanisation and immigration, resulting in constant increases in crime rates and poverty and a growing population of uneducated children and adults.
- The settlement movement offered a new way to understand poverty and an attempt to address it.
- The students from Oxford and Cambridge would come to settlements to spend time amongst the poor in large cities and engage in what we would now call **Community Development Activism**

(Payne, 2005)

Community Development Activism

- The Movement encouraged those from different social classes to integrate resulting in many positive changes within London.
- Activities that supported the movement included:
 - Setting up Youth Clubs and Activities
 - Organising and Sponsoring holidays
 - Active Advocacy on behalf of the poor
- This has now become a global movement of community activism

(Wilks, 2012)

Community Development Activism

- This is now a growing movement with **activist** organisations **advocating** for change in their communities and society
- For example, in the UK the charity [Locality](#)
- And, globally, the [International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers \(IFS\)](#)
- The academic, [Community Development Journal](#) has been published by the Oxford University Press since 1966

Driving Change

- The movement promoted many positive changes which have influenced practice in the 21st century.
- One example includes the introduction of the poor man's lawyer scheme
 - A combination of legal advocacy and campaigning (Cause Advocacy)
- This started in the Mansfield settlement in 1891 with the provision of **pro-bono** legal advice, which quickly spread to other settlements.
- From within the settlement movement a campaign was launched for state support for the provision of legal services.
- This has led to the current legal aid system

(Spencer, 2009)

Driving Change

- It is the more radical tradition in social work in the UK which has been most keen to embrace advocacy as a practice tool.
- Community development (originating from the settlement tradition) has a long tradition of encouraging self-help, advocacy, and community activism and campaigning.
- Recent debate surrounds the argument of this more radical approach to refocus social work's attention on poverty suggesting that there is a strong case for the adoption of more community orientated social work with advocacy as a central feature.

(Ferguson and Woodward, 2009)



The Self-Advocacy Movement

The Self-Advocacy Movement

- The movement enabled groups of people with learning disabilities to collectively begin to advocate and lobby for greater control over their care.
- This was the driving change behind further movements.
- The Independent Living Movement sought and achieved increasing control by disabled individuals over their care
 - First through centres for independent living
 - Then through the successful campaign for the institute of direct payments via the community care (Direct Payments) Act 1996.

(Wilks, 2012)

The Self-Advocacy Movement

- Mental health services were also an important focal point for advocacy and campaigning.
- These movements, with their dual interest in both case and cause advocacy, were driven by common factors
 - The move away from institutional care
 - The critical re-evaluation by service users of what care more generally meant
 - And what assumptions underlaid it.
- This process was further driven by the development and adoption of the social model of disability.

The Social Model of Disability

- The central thesis of the social model understands that:
 - It is not impairments themselves which create the disadvantage and restrictions that disabled people experience,
 - But the responses of society to those impairments.
 - Which have come to have an increasing influence on social care in the field of advocacy

(Oliver, 2009)



The Development of Modern Advocacy: An Historical Timeline



**Following
the Second
World War**

The
Questioning
of Western
Culture



1966
Wolfensberger

Citizen
Advocacy in
America



1983

(IRCHIN)
Independent
representation
for children in
need



1989

The
Children's Act
1989



1991

MISG
Mental
Illness
specific Grant



2001

Legislative
developments



2003

ICAS
Launched

The
Independent
Complaints
Advocacy
Service



2005

IMCA

Independent
Mental
Capacity
Advocate



2010

Expansion on
the IMHA
Scheme



2014

The Care Act
2014

The Social
Services and
Well-Being
(Wales) Act
2014

**From the
1950'S
Onwards**

Scandals at
the hospitals



1979

Citizen
advocacy in
the UK



1983

Mental
Health Act
and Code of
Practice

Advocacy
Projects



1990

UKAN
United
Kingdom
Advocacy
Network



1998

Quality
Protects
Financial
Investment in
children's
services



2002

The Children
and
Adoption Act
2002



2005

White Paper
"Our Health,
Our Care,
Our Say"



2009

Independent
Advocacy
Qualification



2012

The Mental
Health
(Wales)
Measure



(based on Mercer, 2016)

Citizen Advocacy in the USA

- Wolf Wolfensberger, a prominent advocate for people with intellectual impairments, developed the concept of Citizen Advocacy in the USA.
- He believed that individuals who are more advantaged should advocate for those who are less so, particularly focusing on people with impairments.
- Citizen Advocacy involves recruiting unpaid volunteers to form one-on-one protective relationships with impaired individuals.
- The goal is to ensure that vulnerable individuals have someone to look out for them, especially when their families are unable to do so.
- Funding challenges have made it difficult to sustain some programs. Despite these challenges, Citizen Advocacy has had a significant positive impact on the lives of many impaired individuals.

(Based on Mathews, 2019)

Citizen Advocacy in the UK

- Citizen Advocacy began in the late 1970s with the establishment of the Independent Advocacy Campaign (ICA)
- comprising seven key organisations supporting people with physical, sensory, communication and profound multiple impairments, defined advocacy as:
- 'taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need'

(Rappaport *et al*, 2005, pp.299-300)

Other Milestones

- In 1983 the charity (IRCHIN) was established to provide Independent representation for **children in need**
- In the same year the *Mental Health Act* (1983) established a legal framework for formal advocacy for those with mental health issues
- The related Code of Practice established the role of Independent Mental Health Advocates, the first officially sanctioned form of Advocacy in the UK (Department of Health, 1983)

Other Milestones

- *The Children Act* (1989) included provisions for advocacy services for children in care and care leavers.
- Under sections 24D and 26 of the Act, local authorities are required to make arrangements for the provision of advocacy services to assist children and young people in making representations and complaints about their care
- Section 119 of the *Adoption and Children Act 2002 Act* amends the Children Act 1989 to include provisions for advocacy services.
- This amendment, along with the *Advocacy Services and Representations Procedure (Children) (Amendment) Regulations 2004*, imposes new duties on local authorities to provide advocacy services to children and young people making or intending to make representations

Other Milestones

- The Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS) in the UK was established in 2003 to ensure that people making complaints about NHS services had access to independent support.
- The responsibility for commissioning this service was transferred from the Secretary of State for Health to local authorities on April 1, 2013
- We will explore this service in more detail later in the Module

Other Milestones

- The role of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) was established by the *Mental Capacity Act 2005*.
- This legislation provides a legal framework to empower and protect individuals who may lack the capacity to make certain decisions for themselves.
- This became the third **statutory** type of Advocacy available in the UK

Other Milestones

- With the growth of these professional Advocacy roles there was a perceived need for a qualification to prove **fitness to practice**
- The City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Independent Advocacy were launched in 2009
- This has been replaced by the Level 4 qualification in Independent Advocacy Practice (with versions available in Wales)

Other Milestones

- In Wales, *The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014* firmly established roles for Advocates in supporting people to access services
- It includes an [Advocacy Code of Practice](#) which sets out the requirements for local authorities to: -
 - a) ensure that access to advocacy services and support is available to enable individuals to engage and participate when local authorities are exercising statutory duties in relation to them and
 - b) to arrange an Independent Professional Advocate (IPA) to facilitate the involvement of individuals in certain circumstances.

Advocacy in the 21st Century

- The history of social work demonstrates how advocacy has been featured strongly within discussion and social work practice.
- In contemporary society, it is argued that advocacy is a 'standalone' job role, independent from the social work field.
 - This is not necessarily true,
 - It is still in integrated practice in many fields of health and social care.
- Advocacy is a broad subject; a heading under which many interrelated activities take place
- However, formal, Independent Advocacy, is now a reality and we will explore how this differs from activism throughout this Module.

Advocacy in the 21st Century

- Essentially, there are four types of professional advocacy in Wales:
- Independent Mental Health Advocates (IMHA) (established by the Mental Health Act 1983)
- Independent Professional Advocates for [Children and Young People](#) (established by the Children's Act 1989)
- Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA) (established by the Mental Capacity Act 2005)
- Independent Professional Advocates for people in need of support from Social Services (established by the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014)

Contemporary Advocacy Provision

Driving change in the 21st century

- There are many causes that drive change in today's society, with many people advocating for their own cause
- Consider the contemporary issues facing society today:
 - Covid-19
 - Hospital waiting times
 - War in Ukraine
 - Homelessness
 - Racism
 - Gender inequality
 - Government funds/ Unfair pay

Driving change in the 21st century

- These causes are all considered societal Issues
 - That is to say that there is something 'wrong' with today's society.
- These societal issues are strongly supported by individuals within society, with picket lines, campaigning and media attention.
- This encourages anyone and everyone to 'Join the Fight' against these particular issues
- But is this Advocacy?
- Or Activism?

Advocacy or Activism?

One way of describing the difference is as follows;

Advocacy

- Advocacy is using voice to support a specific cause by getting support from a person or group
- Advocates work on behalf of an individual, group or organisation in either a voluntary or paid capacity

Activism

- Activism is using forceful actions to bring about change, typically social or political
- Activists use methods such as protests, street marches, rallies, and strikes to intervene in the social, political, or economic environment.

What are your thoughts on this?



- This brings us back to our original question:

What is Advocacy?

- We will explore this question throughout the Module.

References

- *Adoption and Children Act* (2002) Available at: [Adoption and Children Act 2002](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- *Advocacy Services and Representations Procedure (Children) (Amendment) Regulations* (2004) Available at: [The Advocacy Services and Representations Procedure \(Children\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2004](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- Atkinson, D. (1999) *Advocacy: A Review* Brighton: Pavilion/Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- *Children Act* (1989) Available at: [Children Act 1989](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- Department of Health (1983) *Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice* Available at: [Mental Health Act 1983](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- Ferguson, I. & Woodward, R. (2009) *Radical Social Work in Practice: Making a Difference* Bristol: Policy Press
- IFS (No Date) *Who Are We?* Available at [Home – IFS](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- Locality (No Date) *Locality's Story* Available at: [Our story – Locality](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- Mathews, I (2017) *Not like us? 'Wolfensberger's 'major historic roles' reconsidered'* *Disability & Society* Vol 32 Iss 9 pp.1351-1365
Available at: [Full article: Not like us? Wolfensberger's 'major historic roles' reconsidered](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]

References

- Mercer, K. (2016) *The History of Advocacy* Available at: [History-of-Advocacy-Oct16-Kate-Mercer.pdf \(speakeasyadvocacy.org.uk\)](#) [NB. Link Not working as of 29/10/2024]
- *Mental Health Act* (1983) Available at : [Mental Health Act 1983](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- Payne, M. (2006) *The Origins of Social Work, Continuity and Change* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Rapaport, J., Manthorpe, J., Moriarty, J., Hussein, S., & Collins, J. (2005). 'Advocacy and people with learning disabilities in the UK: How can local funders find value for money?' *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*, 9(4), 299–319. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1744629505059169> [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- Smith, M., K. (2005) *Settlements and Social Action Centres* Phoenix: Oryx Press
- *The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act* 2014 Available at: [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- *The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act* 2014 *Code of Practice* Available at: [social-services-and--well-being-wales-act-2014-part-10-code-of-practice-advocacy.pdf](#) [Accessed 30/10/2024]
- Spencer, B. (2009) 'The Poor Man's Lawyer Service: A Precursor to Legal Aid' *Legal Action* (May) pp.6-7
- Welsh Government (2019) *Independent Professional Advocacy: National Standards and Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People in Wales* Available at: [Independent Professional Advocacy cover English](#) [Accessed 13/01/2024]
- Wilks, T. (2012) *Advocacy and Social Work Practice* Berkshire: Open University Press Available at: [Full details and actions for Advocacy and social work practice](#) [Accessed 29/10/2024]