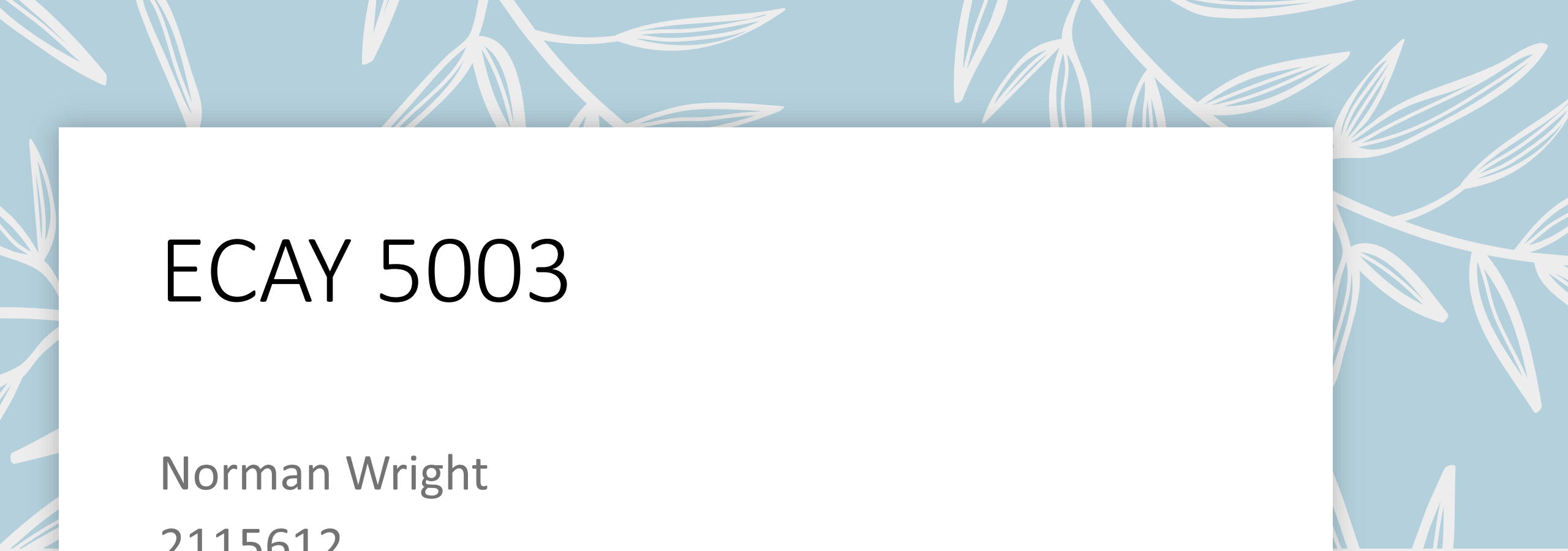




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ECAY 5003

What is Advocacy

- “Advocacy is free, independent support to involve you in decisions about your health, care and wellbeing” (Voiceability, 2023).
- “In order to voice your opinions and desires and defend your rights, you need the assistance of another person, which is what is meant by advocacy. Your advocate is a person who provides you with this kind of support” (Mind,2023).
- “Assisting someone in getting their voice heard is known as advocacy. The service's goal is to assist individuals in realising their rights and voicing their opinions” (Advocacy Focus 2023)
- “Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need. Advocates and advocacy schemes work in partnership with the people they support and take their side. Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice” (Citizens Advice Sheffield, 2023).
- “Any action that speaks in favour of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others”(Your Voice & West Glamorgan People First 2023).
- “Advocacy, on the other hand, refers to the act of supporting or promoting a particular cause or issue. Unlike activism, advocacy does not necessarily involve direct action or protest. Instead, advocates work to raise awareness of an issue and to persuade others to support their cause”(The Content Authority,2023).



Provisions of Advocacy

- **Instructed advocacy**
 - The individual tells the advocate what they would like them to say and do. The advocate's role is to work with the person to bring together what they have to say in a way that puts their point of view across clearly. The advocate supports them in what they want to achieve.
- **Non-instructed advocacy**
 - When someone doesn't have the capacity to tell the advocate what they want them to do, the advocate uses other approaches to make sure the individual's life choices aren't compromised. It could be that because of a brain injury, mental health issue, substance misuse or temporary unconsciousness, someone isn't able to make a decision for themselves. An advocate's job is to make sure their best interests are represented. Our advocates use recognised ways to work with someone who isn't able to communicate what they want. They're trained to be aware that a person's capacity might fluctuate, and continuously look out for opportunities to use instructed advocacy.
- **Statutory advocacy**
 - Statutory advocacy means a person is legally entitled to an advocate because of their circumstances. This might be because they're being treated under the Mental Health Act or because they lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions. It also covers certain people who are in the care of the NHS or local authority, including prisoners.
- **Non-statutory advocacy**
 - These services continue to play an important role, providing advocacy where vulnerable people fall outside the eligibility criteria for statutory provision.
- **Self-advocacy**
 - In self-advocacy, a person is able to assess a situation themselves, make choices about what they want and take steps to make it happen. They are able to communicate their views and preferences, and have these heard. We support people to develop the skills they need to self-advocate as much as possible.
- **Paid Relevant Person's Representatives (PRPR)**
 - A Paid Relevant Person's Representative protects someone's interests when they lack the mental capacity to make some decisions for themselves and they have been deprived of their liberty to prevent them from coming to harm. The local authority appoints a PRPR when no friends or family are available to support the individual.

What is Activism

- Activism is working to bring about change in society, usually through protesting or campaigning (Activistshandbook 2022).
- Activism is about taking action to create social change. Usually, you do this together with other people (Activistshanadbook 2022)
- Activism describes the practice of creating awareness, lobbying for change, or giving support for a cause, political movement, organization, or belief (Masterclass 2022).
- “Activism refers to the actions taken by individuals or groups to bring about social or political change. It involves actively campaigning for a cause or issue, often through public demonstrations, protests, or other forms of direct action. Activists are often motivated by a strong sense of moral or ethical conviction, and they may be willing to engage in civil disobedience or other forms of nonviolent resistance to achieve their goals (The Content Authority”,(2023).
- The term "activism" is frequently used interchangeably with protest or dissent; however, activism can originate from a variety of political perspectives and take many different forms, including writing letters to politicians or newspapers, political campaigning, economic activism (by boycotting or shopping at preferred establishments), rallies, blogging, and street marches; strikes, including hunger strikes and work stoppages; and even guerilla tactics.(Grace, J 2018).



Similarities & Differences

Similarities

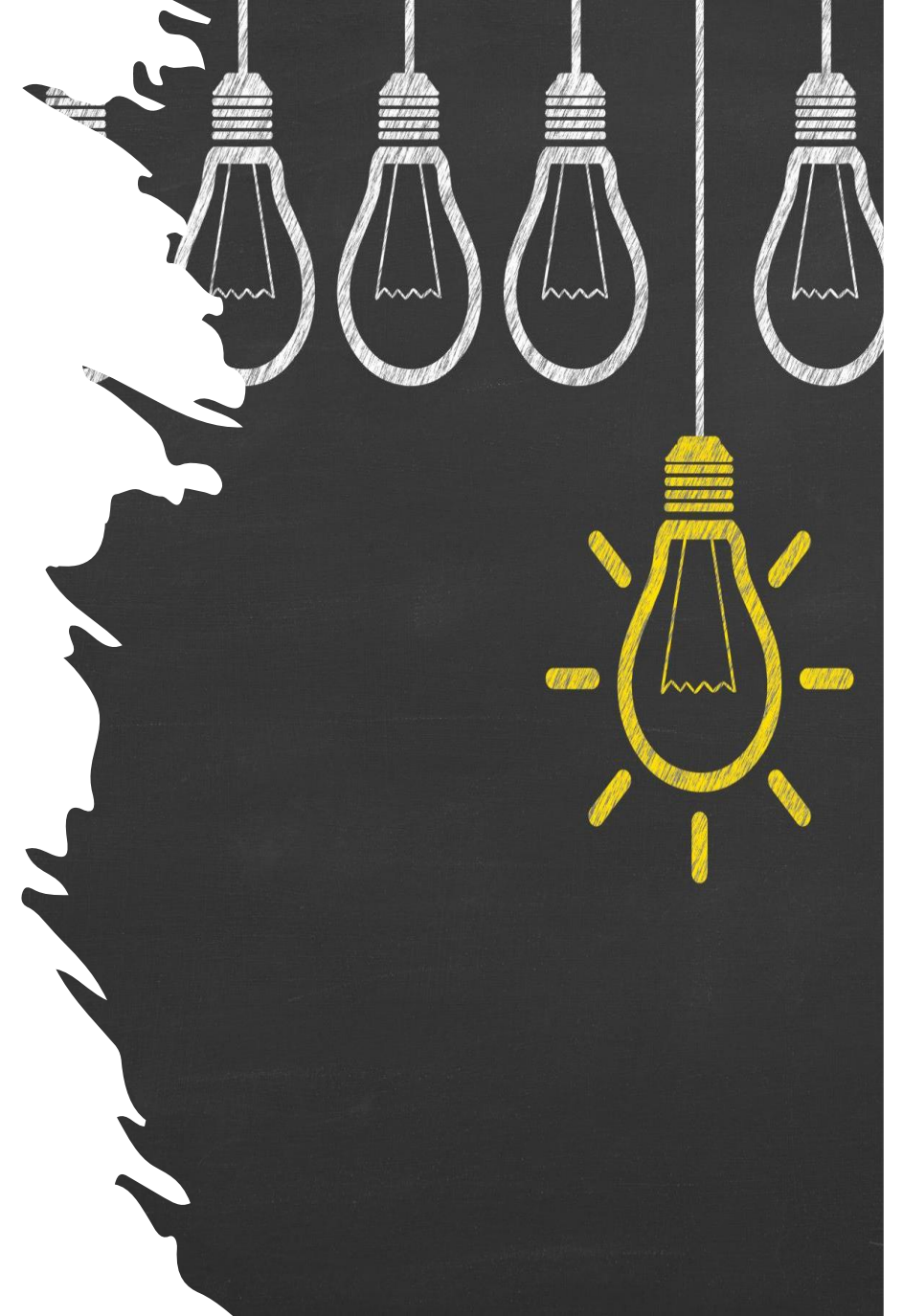
- Purpose/cause /Grievance
- Wanting the correct outcomes
- Believing in the issue/problem
- Standing up to the power in question
- Seek to involve multiple people and groups to draw attention to an issue
- Influence the decision-making process

Differences Advocacy

- Not the Same Thing
- Not the same goals
- Goal of behaviour is to get others to support ideas
- Work inside a system (e.g., working with or in support of organization)
- Behaviours involving lower risk or lower cost
- Focus on amplifying

Differences in Activism

- Goal of behaviour is to challenge ideas
 - Work outside to influence a system (e.g., working against organizations or individuals with power)
 - Behaviours involving higher risk or higher cost
 - Focus on execution



Drivers for Advocacy

- The range of possible advocacy tactics is limited only by the imagination of the advocates (Green, D 2016)
- Uneasy Relations within organisations that advocates may be required to work with i.e. NHS Or Other Organisations
- To Get Better and equal Legislation
- Best Interests of Clients/users
- Making the Difference
- Positive outcomes
- Making new partnerships
- “Advocacy Focus lives by the motto of “nothing about me, without me.” We want every person we support to know that they have power and can take control over every decision in their lives”(Advocacy Focus 2023).



Barriers in Accessing Advocacy

- Advocate services are rarely well-known, and consumers frequently do not realise that they are entitled to advocate. Consequently, they don't use services(Nice.org 2022).
- Signposting
- Wrong Information given
- Lack of Communication
- Cuts To Funding
- Time (Often referred to late)
- Local Authorities not referring on people/clients
- Language
- Advocacy is not as accessible as it should be

(Scottish Advocacy Alliance 2014)



Independent Advocate

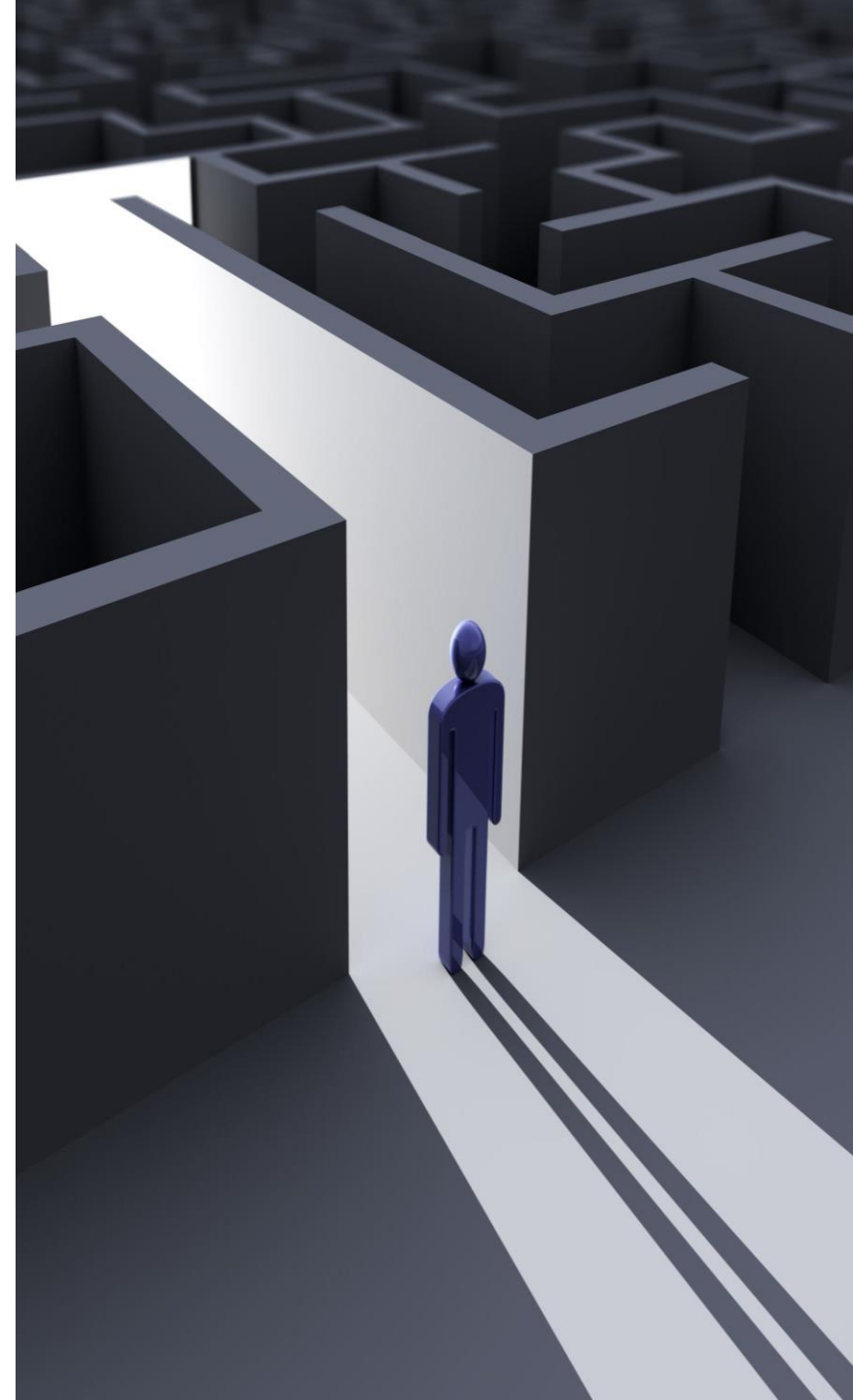
An **Independent Advocate** must be appointed to support and represent the person for the purpose of assisting their involvement if these two conditions are met and if the individual is required to take part in one or more of the following processes described in the Care Act:

- a needs assessment
- a carer's assessment
- the preparation of a care and support or support plan
- a review of a care and support or support plan
- a child's needs assessment
- a child's carer's assessment
- a young carer's assessment
- a safeguarding enquiry
- a safeguarding adult review.(scie.org,2022)
- The care Act (2014) [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
- The Code takes time to outline the various advocacy models that are available, but it omits to define "independent advocate" and the kinds of advocacy that authorities must commission in order to fulfil their duties. Only "services which provide" are mentioned in the Act (Clements, L 2018) [Microsoft Word - Wales SS & Well-being Act 28.docx \(lukecllements.co.uk\)](https://www.lukecllements.co.uk)



Advocacy Impact On Service Users

- An analysis of the literature regarding the efficacy or influence of advocacy is thought to benefit its users (Forbat & Atkinson 2005).
- Fear of losing their independence
- To support the service users
- Chang people's life's
- support and understanding
- Making sure people have their say in how they are cared for and supported(Advocacy people 2023)
- Listen and Help
- “We work to achieve this mission by working with local agencies to actively promote and provide the right services to anybody who needs them. For any services we cannot provide ourselves, we aim to be the best-placed organisation to signpost the people of our community to the most appropriate support and resources suitable to their needs” (Advocacy Focus 2023).



Conclusion

- Advocacy success demands political maturity, selecting the appropriate strategies and alliances, and seizing opportunities as they arise.
- In a more subtle way, effective lobbying necessitates a mindset that finds the unique contexts fascinating, accepts ambiguity and complexity, is sensitive to the diverse perspectives held by others, is willing to learn from mistakes, and adapts to evolving circumstances. And all the while retaining the drive and enthusiasm required to succeed.(Green, D 2016)
- “In conclusion, activism and advocacy are two different approaches to promote social change. Activism involves direct actions such as protests, demonstrations, and civil disobedience to bring attention to an issue and demand change. On the other hand, advocacy focuses on educating and influencing decision-makers to create policies and laws that address the root causes of the issue” (The Content Authority,2023).
- Although the phrases activism and advocacy are sometimes used synonymously, they have unique meanings that differ from one another. In order to comprehend what you're talking about and how your activities differ, it's crucial to keep in mind the differences, particularly if you want to engage in either activity.(Grace J 2018).



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