



Prifysgol Cymru
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ECAY5008: Advocacy & Activism in the 21st Century

Theme 2: Independent Professional Advocacy
Part 1: Types of Advocacy

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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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

Independent Professional Advocacy

Independent **Professional** Advocacy is provided to an individual when a person is legally entitled to an Advocate because of their circumstances.

Models of Advocacy



Advocacy: Models and Effectiveness

Stewart and Macintyre (2013, p. 2) have identified the following key issues:

- 'There is a range of models of advocacy, each with distinctive characteristics relating to:
 - Type of work undertaken
 - Length of involvement
 - The person undertaking the role'
- 'There is a limited evidence base about the effectiveness of advocacy. This is primarily due to differing definitions and a lack of understanding about the role of advocacy'

Advocacy: Models and Effectiveness

They go on to state that:

- There is some evidence to suggest that the advocacy process promotes increased self-confidence and ensures the voices of people who access services are heard
- Geographically, the availability of advocacy is varied across Scotland, particularly for specialist forms of advocacy
- Advocates require a significant set of skills to undertake the role effectively; there is a need for ongoing training and regular supervision to maximise effectiveness.

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.2)

Advocacy: Models and Effectiveness

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(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013).

Models of Advocacy

Self-Advocacy

- Refers to individuals acting and speaking for themselves.
- It may be hard for people to speak up in this way;
- The formation of self-advocacy groups has enabled them to support each other. (Dalton & Carlin, 2002, p.24)
- An example is, [People First \(Self Advocacy\)](#), a national, user-led organization which is run by and for people with learning difficulties, learning disabilities, and neuro-diverse individuals

Models of Advocacy

Self-Advocacy

- Individuals represent and speak up for themselves, often with support, either individually or collectively. This support can be in a paid or unpaid capacity. Key features include:
 - Outward-facing model aimed at securing services and supports for the individual
 - Focus on ensuring that the person's voice is heard
 - Can promote confidence, skills and knowledge and protection of individual rights
- (Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.3)

Can you identify any draw-backs with this model of advocacy?



Models of Advocacy

Peer advocacy

- Refers to support from a person who is or has been a service user for another who is confronting experiences or difficulties similar to their own.
- It has been said that the uniqueness of the peer advocacy role is in the advocate's empathy with the client's situation;
- Their experience may have equipped them with valuable skills or qualities and the client may feel that they have a particularly equal relationship with the advocate

(Dalton & Carlin, 2002, p.24)

Models of Advocacy

Peer advocacy

- In Peer Advocacy the advocate and the 'client' have a common background
- For example, they may have shared experience of service provision
- Peer advocates are "experts by experience" (Monaghan *et al*, 2018)
- Peer advocacy can be conducted on an individual or collective basis and often develops spontaneously, for example in care homes or day centres. (Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.4)

Models of Advocacy

Peer advocacy

- Key features include:
- Focused on common problem solving
- Lessens the imbalance of power between the advocate and their advocacy partner as they have shared experiences
- Most effectively used with specific groups, for example, people with substance misuse problems or mental health problems as they can prefer advocates with similar experiences (SIAA, 2008 *cited in* Stewart & Macintyre, 2013).

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.4)

Can you identify any draw-backs with this model of advocacy?



Models of Advocacy

Volunteer / Citizen Advocacy

- Refers to an independent, long term, one to one partnership between a **volunteer** citizen advocate and a 'client' who needs help in representing and defending their interests and rights as a citizen.
- Citizen advocates are usually part of a scheme (led by a paid co-ordinator) which will recruit, train and support the volunteers.
- The citizen advocate role is different from other forms of advocacy in that it involves a long-term partnership with one person and involves responding to and representing many concerns or views that their 'partner' may have in different areas of their life

(Dalton & Carlin, 2002, p.24)

Models of Advocacy

Volunteer / Citizen Advocacy

- Involves volunteers (unpaid) who are recruited, trained and matched with an individual – generally only one at a time.
- It involves a one-to-one relationship over an extended period, and;
- Goes beyond befriending - the volunteer represents the views of the 'client'.
- The partnership is independent, supported, but not influenced by, the advocacy organisation.

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.4)

Models of Advocacy

Volunteer / Citizen Advocacy

Key Features include:

- The relationship between the advocate and the individual (the partnership) is viewed as an outcome in and of itself
- The relationship continues regardless of any presenting 'issue'
- Citizen advocates are supported to use their own networks, as well as community organisations to support them to develop their social networks.

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.4)

Can you identify any draw-backs with this model of advocacy?



Models of Advocacy

Independent Professional Advocacy

- An Independent Professional Advocate is a trained, paid worker who offers independent, time limited, one to one support to a client who wishes to access a service or is already a service user.
- This type of advocacy has often been developed and managed by voluntary organisations.

(Dalton & Carlin, 2002, p.24)

Models of Advocacy

Independent Professional Advocacy

Key Features:

- A partnership between a **paid** advocate and a person who accesses support.
- The advocate provides support, information and representation, with the aim of empowering their partner and enabling them to express their needs and choices.
- This type of advocacy can be undertaken on a short-term or long-term basis.
- Long-term advocacy work may be required due to changing needs over time and the complexity of issues, for example, with parents with learning disabilities involved in the child protection system.

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.5)

Models of Advocacy

Independent Professional Advocacy (IPA)

Key features include:

- The IPA has a focus on upholding the client's rights, and
- Ensuring fair and equal treatment and access to services
- Making certain that decisions are taken with consideration for the individual's unique preferences and perspectives
- Often a last, used resort only when all other attempts at communicating and understanding an adults wishes have failed

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.5)

Models of Advocacy

Independent Professional Advocacy

Key features include:

- Trying out a range of methods of communication to ensure the person's wishes are clear
- Using a number of core quality of life domains, together with relevant legislation, to make comparisons and consider what quality of life or experiences would be usual and acceptable to the general population.

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.5)

Can you identify any draw-backs with this model of advocacy?



Models of Advocacy

‘Best Interests’ / Non-Instructed Advocacy

- Advocacy can be provided to those who are, for reasons of capacity, unable to personally instruct their advocate.
- This may be because of the person’s limitations in grasping concepts or because they are not able to make others understand their wishes because of significant communication barriers.
- Capacity to instruct or understand can be diminished for a number of reasons, for example mental health problems, dementia, acquired brain injury, or learning disabilities.
- However, it should be noted that having one of these conditions does not **automatically** mean a person lacks capacity.

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.6)

Models of Advocacy

'Best Interests' / Non-Instructed Advocacy

- Decisions regarding capacity are informed by the Mental Capacity Act 2005
- The decision-maker is usually a healthcare professional, social worker, or another relevant authority involved in the individual's care
- Once appointed, an advocate will observe the client and their situation, look for alternative means of communication with the client, gather information from significant others in the partner's life, if appropriate, and ensure the partner's rights are upheld.

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.6)

Models of Advocacy

'Best Interests' / Non-Instructed Advocacy

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- A focus on upholding the persons rights
- Ensuring fair and equal treatment and access to services
- Making certain that decisions are taken with consideration for the individual's unique preferences and perspectives

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.6)

Models of Advocacy

'Best Interests' / Non-Instructed Advocacy

- Key features include:
- Used as a last resort only when all other attempts at communicating and understanding an adults wishes have failed
- Uses a range of methods of communication to ensure the person's wishes are clear
- Uses a number of core, quality of life domains, together with relevant legislation, to make comparisons and consider what quality of life or experiences would be usual and acceptable to the general population.

(Stewart & Macintyre, 2013, p.6)

References

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