

Describe what constitutes 'empowerment, agency and anti-oppressive practices' and relate these to the role of the advocate.

This assignment will describe what advocacy is and how empowerment, agency and anti-oppressive practice fits into the role of the advocate.

Advocacy looks to ensure that people, particularly those with disabilities and those who are vulnerable in society have their voices heard on issues that are important to them. The advocate will help the individual defend and safeguard their rights and issues. The advocate will also ensure that the individual's wishes and rights are genuinely considered when decisions about their lives and health are being made. An advocate will help the individual to express their concerns, give them information on services, explore their choices and help defend and promote their rights and responsibilities. As an advocate you will have to give the individual legal support, advice, tell them their rights and choices, show them they have a voice, help give them empowerment, give them representation and support and give them advice to make the right decisions about their lives and their future. As described by Jenn "As you move through this world advocating for what you believe in, do it with love and an open heart, not with anger and a closed heart." (Bruer 2018).

agency and anti-oppressive , Within the role of an advocate we look at empowerment , Firstly empowerment . what they are and how they fall into this role , practices , power , empowerment is giving an individual or a group of people the confidence Believe in your infinite " . status or authority to stand up and speak for themselves Bennet 2016)) " . Your only limitations are those you set upon yourself " . potential Instead of worrying " , ' Roy Bennet also said in his book "The light in the heart Bennet) " . shift your energy to what you can create , about what you cannot control Another famous quote by Naila Kaber is when he describes Empowerment . (2016 to "the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make choices what it is , So next we look at agency . (p13 , 2005 , Kabeer) " . acquire such an ability Agency is when an individual has the . and how it fits into the role of the advocate Agency refers to . power to act independently and to make their own free choices

the feeling of being in the driving seat when it comes to our actions and Promotes
It is the ability to act on behalf of what .(a feeling of being in charge (Moore 2016
you genuinely believe and value and what you have reason to value. Agency is
it involves the approaches used to help the ,closely linked to empowerment
.individuals gain power of the actions and decisions they make over their own lives
Described by Amartya Sen agency is "Development consists of the removal of
various types of unfreedoms that leave people with little choice and little
Anti-oppressive .(opportunity of exercising their reasoned agency" (Sen 1999:xii
practice is when someone has power or is the position of power over another like
If they abuse that .care worker or school teacher ,employer ,a social worker
Anti-oppressive approaches aim .it is seen as being oppressive ,position of power
to challenge the structure of society and the use of power where they are being
used to control and maintain some individuals and groups in disadvantaged
Anti-oppressive practice looks at the repositioning and the reshuffling .positions
of power by challenging the structures and rights until there is a more equal
is ,at its core ,Anti-oppressive practice (AOP) is a concept that".measure
concerned with promoting values of equality and social justice by challenging the
Oppression .(2003 ,1995; (Dominelli ,power of oppression" (Dalrymple and Burke
Oppression is .it is when someone or a group ,is the opposite to anti-oppression
the social act of placing severe restrictions on an ...':defined by Barker (2003) as
a government or political organization ,Typically .or institution ,group ,individual
that is in power places these restrictions formally or covertly on oppressed groups
.so that they may be exploited and less able to compete with other social groups
and deprived of ,exploited ,The oppressed individual or group is devalued
privileges by the individual or group who has more power' (Baker 2003 pp306-
It explains that if you have power over someone you can deprive them of .(307
When talking about .their privileges as you have more power than them
cultural and ,These levels are personal .oppression there are three main levels
A personal level is normally based on the individual's views and .structural
A .particularly in the case of judging against a certain group of people ,actions
cultural level is about the shared beliefs and values about what is good and right or
,culture ,history ,The structural level is where in which society .bad and wrong
personal beliefs and behaviours all come together to ,institutionalised practices

The media also plays a big part in how we think as they .have an influence on you
.only tell us or print what they want us to lean and hear

we will be looking at a child's ,There are many types of advocates but in this assignment

The advocate is normally appointed when a family or group conference .advocate

The advocate is usually picked from the immediate circle of support .is being held

,who they can talk to ,someone that the child feels comfortable with ,for the child

,a teacher ,The advocate could be a family member .rely upon and can confide in

It is .a youth worker or someone who is known the child ,school social worker

then the job of the child's advocate to find out what it is that the child wants and to

The .then make sure that their rights are respected and that their views are heard

child's advocate will meet with the child and will listen to their views and their

wishes; The advocate will discuss and ensure the child understands why they have

and need an advocate and where applicable outcomes will be discussed with them

The advocates job is to talk on behalf of the child and to ensure they make .also

.the child's wishes and views are heard and that these views are also respected

Any information the has been discussed with the child and in some cases their

.families is most often done after the child's conference or case has been sorted

these visits are to ensure the wishes and the ,They will often do follow up visits

To .views if the child are still being met and that these follow their best interests

control the quality of the children's advocacy services in England and also in Wales

the department of Health released the 'National Standards for the Provision of

These standards were made to help councils .Childrens Advocacy Services in 2002

and other agencies across both England and Wales to help in their support into

Any advocate .looking after children and young adults that are in desperate need

must ensure that they have understood the views and wishes of the child and to

Advocacy champions the .ensure these views and wishes are heard on their behalf

All advocacy services have .rights and the needs of children and young people

clear policies that are there to help with promoting any equality issues they will

also monitor services to ensure that no child or young adult is being discriminated

,religion ,race ,gender ,Discrimination can be against someone due to age .against

All advocacy services are accessible .sexual orientation or even language ,culture

they are completely confidential and all have an effective and easy ,and easy to use

Advocates will be fully qualified and will hold a disclosure .complaints procedure

The advocate will give the child or individual the .barring service certificate empowerment by giving them the help and the confidence to speak up for this is ,themselves and for themselves to express their own views and wishes They will also give structural .known as phycological empowerment empowerment which will help them to remove barriers that can be restricting The advocate will give the child or young adult .them access to material benefits agency by giving them the greater freedom and to enhance the ability to be able to Agency is described by Sen as “Greater .help themselves and possibly others and also to help the ,freedom enhances the ability of people to help themselves 1999 ,and these matters are central to the process of development” (Sen ,world The child or young adult needs to identify the problems and to find .(page 152 An advocate will give the .solutions then hey will be able to change it and solve it child or young adult anti-oppression by ensuring they are not discriminated that they have equal say and rights also ensuring that nobody has the ,against power to make them feel unwanted or under pressure to give into the needs of Anti-discriminatory practice and .other people who are having power over them We acknowledge the .anti-oppressive practice can complement each other but we feel that it is limiting in its ,usefulness of anti-discriminatory practice As .(2006,p.3-4, Dalrymple and Burke) ’.potential to challenge oppression advocate you have to follow certain policies and also legislations that have been published and brought in by the local governments and authorities to protect the A policy is a public service for people's .child and to also protect the advocate Policies are made by .welfare of what we do or don’t want to happen in the future having organised activism by a group of people experiencing inequality supported they are government institutions made legislations to ensure and to ,by others A legislation is a law or an Act that has been passed by .promote equality is met it may be known as a bill and ,Before a legislation can become a law .government .has to go through many stages before it gets its royal asset to become a legislation Some of the main legislations and policies that advocates must follow when Childrens Act 1989,This is about .advocating for children are as mentioned bellow when to initiate care proceedings and it’s the duty of the local authorities to Un Convention on Rights of the Child .safeguard and promote children's welfare ,political ,This covers all aspects of the child's life and ensure the civil -1989

social and cultural rights that all children are entitled to and how adults ,economic and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy their this aim is to make sure that every child has the ,Every Child Matters 2003 .rights ,ill health ,chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of education failure crime and anti-social ,abuse and neglect ,teenage pregnancy ,substance misuse this a policy ,Rights to Action 2004 .behaviour amongst children and young adults that help to improve the services for children and young adults with evaluating the this was published ,The Mental Capacity Act 2005 .differences made to their lives 2005 to make new provisions relating to people who lack capacity or ,on April 7th have the inability to make decisions for themselves and making sure that their best By decisions it could be about where they live or .interests are always being met It is also about their .what services and appointments they have to use and attend It .health and whether or not they are in a fit state to take medication on their own also involves the money side of things and whether they are capable of being in this gives a clear outline of what ,The Care Act 2014 .charge of their own finances it ensures that those who provide the advocacy are ,independent advocacy entails ,independent of the local authorities and they have their own codes of procedure these people are accountable to the advocacy organisation that employs or this was ,The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 .recruits them It provides the framework for social service .introduced in April of 2016 protection of children and ,This Act is about the safeguarding .provisions in Wales It helps to give individuals a stronger .young adults and promoting their welfare voice and gives them more control over the care and support they need and .receive

To conclude this assignment, we know that an advocate must have certain qualities to be in that job role. They have to be an honest, loyal, open minded, have integrity, patience, passion, professionalism, be approachable, brave, persistent, have resilience, be respectful and be an empathic person although they must not be to hands on with the child that they an advocate for. They must at all times ensure that they follow the codes of practices as well as the policies and legislations that are surrounding the case that they are dealing with, all advocates must ensure that they put the child's best interest into action at all times. The advocate must ensure that if a case doesn't go their way that they stay professional and in some circumstances they come up against some other

professionals that will be hard to deal with or won't share the same views as them. This unfortunately is all part of the job role and staying professional and understanding is the name of the game. Not every body is cut out to be an advocate it does take a very understanding person to do the role as some of the information you will be told and hear will be very upsetting or difficult to digest, but the best outcome for the child or young adult is always their target.

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