

THE HISTORY OF ADVOCACY

There is nothing new about speaking up for yourself or others... But organised forms of advocacy began to take shape in the latter half of the 20th Century.



Following the Second World War

Many people started to question different aspects of Western culture, including psychiatry and how services were provided to vulnerable people.



This led to a number of patients, relatives, friends and service providers questioning whether it was right to lock people with mental health needs or learning disabilities away in large asylums for long periods of time.



From the 1950's onwards...

Numerous scandals concerning long stay hospitals placed pressure on the government who considered their closure. At this point a number of charities lobbied for change including more legal protection for patients and in the late 1950's and 1960's led to the development of citizen advocacy.



1966 Wolfensberger

Introduced the first citizen advocacy scheme in America.

The first citizen advocacy organisation in the UK was established in 1979 in London.



1983

Independent Representation for Children in Need (IRCHIN) offered legal support to children and young people who were subject to family court proceedings advice and representation through the court process.

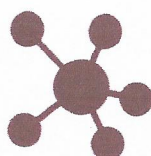
1983 Mental Health Act and Code of Practice



The publication of the Key Area Handbook on Mental Illness published by the Department of Health also in 1983 provided advice in setting up advocacy projects and consulting with advocates. This helped to raise the quality, availability and credibility of advocacy as an independent service.

1984

International conference on self advocacy led to users and supporters establish the first People First group.



1990 UKAN

UKAN (United Kingdom Advocacy Network) was set up to bring together a number of local and national mental health user groups.



1989 The Children Act 1989

Introduced the right for young people receiving care and support from social service, to be involved in decisions affecting them.

1991 MSG

The introduction of the MSG (mental illness specific grant) funded the development of social care services for individuals with mental health need – this included a number of advocacy groups.





1998 Quality protects

Quality Protects (Children First in Wales), provided ring-fenced money to children's services to improve the way services were delivered.

2002 The Children and Adoption Act 2002

Amended the Children Act 1989 and introduced – for the first time in law – the legal right for children and young people to access advocacy.

2002 also witnessed the introduction of the National Minimum Standards for the Provision of Children's Advocacy Services issued by the Department of Health.



2001 3 important legislative developments

- 1 First was the introduction of Valuing People, which was described as the government's plan for making the lives of people with learning disabilities, their families and carers better and covers England.
- 2 Secondly the Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS) provided information, advice and support to help patients, families and their carers.
- 3 Thirdly the Care Standards Act 2000 introduced National Minimum Standards for Care homes which acknowledged the important role independent advocacy had in securing people's rights and supporting service user involvement.



2003 ICAS launched

The Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS) launched to support patients and their carers wishing to pursue a complaint about their NHS treatment or care.



2005 the White Paper "Our health, Our Care, Our say"

Set out a vision to provide people with good quality social care and NHS services in the communities where they live.

2007 Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA)

Was introduced within the Mental Capacity Act 2005. IMCAs are instructed whenever a person lacks the capacity to make a particular decision and they do not have any friends or family (otherwise known as 'un-befriended').

The IMCAs role is to support and represent the person and to produce a report with recommendations which the decision maker must take into consideration during their decision making.

Shortly after the introduction of IMCA, Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) was introduced in 2008 (2009 in England).



2009 the qualification in Independent advocacy was launched.

This qualification development by C&G and DH targets independent advocates. For some it marked a move towards the increasing professionalization of the sector.

2010 expanded the existing IMHA scheme

2012 the Mental Health (Wales) Measure

To include compulsory patients under sections 4 and 5 Mental Health Act 1983, making the IMHA service available to a broader range of patients receiving treatment for mental illness in Wales.

2015 Long awaited Care Act came into force

With promises of revolutionizing the way care and support is delivered.

Independent Advocacy is available for people who face substantial difficulty at being involved in assessments, planning, review and safeguarding where there is no-one available to support their active involvement.



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