



EXPLORING ADVOCACY

ECAY 4004

OUTCOMES OF THIS SESSION:

- Defining advocacy
- Describing the barriers to people exercising their rights
- Exploring the role of the advocate
- Exploring the different types of advocacy
- Exploring new legal powers for advocacy for certain people in wales

Formulated with learning materials created care council wales in partnership with age Cymru, disability Wales, Martin Coyle (former chief executive of action for advocacy) (2016)

<http://www.ccwales.org.uk/getting-in-on-the-act-hub/> .



Independent Professional Advocacy



Getting in on the Act



WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

- Discuss what key words you might use to describe advocacy.
- In one minute explain to your partner what you understand by the term advocacy as though you were explaining it to a client.
 - How easy was this exercise?
 - What, if any, difficulties did you have?
 - Feed back to the group some of the key words you used to describe advocacy.



DEFINITION:

- “Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain the 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.”

(Advocacy QPM, 2014; Revised Advocacy Charter and Code of Practice)

“Advocacy supports and enables people who have difficulty representing their interests, to exercise their rights, express their views, explore and make informed choices. Independent advocacy supports the person regardless of the demands and concerns of others. It challenges the causes and effects of injustice, oppression and abuse and upholds human rights.

(OLDER PEOPLE’S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (OPAAL)
NATIONAL FORUM, 2008 P.1)

- Why might people have barriers to exercise their rights?



Potential Barriers to Rights

- Unable to participate
- Not knowing what their rights are
- Not understanding how they apply to the individual
- Not having the right information, not being able to access it
- Not having support to understand how rights apply to someone
- Not being able to challenge them or frightened to challenge
- Unable to stand up for oneself
- Feeling alone and not having the confidence to speak up
- Living in fear of others
- Not wanting to make a fuss
- Lack of capacity
- Services not understanding what people's rights are

HISTORY OF ADVOCACY

- 1950S – Scandals in long stay hospitals
- 1960s – Increasing awareness of rights and the way people are treated who need services
- 1966 – wolf Wolfensburger established the first citizen advocacy project in America
- 1979 – first citizen advocacy project in London
- 1983 and 1984 – developments in advocacy for mental health patients, people with learning difficulties, and children
- 1980s – to date – legislative and policy changes based on the rights of individuals to have a voice, choice and representation



What is Advocacy?



Getting in on the Act

Befriending

Counselling

Choices

Mediation

Legal support

Rights

Having a voice

Support

Advice

Dependency

Empowerment

**Making
decisions**

Impartial

Representation

Advocacy isn't -

Advocacy is -



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Making decisions

- We will be examining oppression, power and agency
 - How do you think advocacy relates to each?



- In what ways can people advocate?
- Who are the advocates?



WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

- LEGAL OBLIGATION
- MORAL OBLIGATION
- PERSONAL TO LEGAL DEMAND
- PRESSURE GROUPS
- PRESS REPORTS
- PUBLIC OPINION

(OLIVER AND DALRYMPLE, 2008)

Types of advocacy



Getting in on the Act



FURTHER LINKS TO THE DIFFERENT TYPES (ALSO KNOWN AS MODELS) OF ADVOCACY

- [HTTPS://WWW.IRISS.ORG.UK/RESOURCES/INSIGHTS/ADVOCACY-MODELS-AND-EFFECTIVENESS](https://www.iriss.org.uk/resources/insights/advocacy-models-and-effectiveness)

INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY

- People are entitled to be in control of their own lives
- Where their ability to exercise choice or represent their own interests is limited, then
- Independent advocates can help ensure that an individual's rights are upheld and that views, wishes and needs are heard, respected and acted upon.
- [HTTP://WWW.QUALITYADVOCACY.ORG.UK/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2014/03/CODE-OF-PRACTICE.PDF](http://www.qualityadvocacy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/code-of-practice.pdf)

To advocate or not to advocate

Exercise



In groups discuss why an individual might require and wish to engage an Independent Professional Advocate rather than take the support of a professional, family member, friend or carer.



In what ways might you have a conflict of interest if someone asked you to speak up on their behalf?



Are there any conflicts that people might assume there are even if you don't think there are?

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL BEING ACT 2014

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 to facilitate the involvement of individuals in certain circumstances.

Wellbeing principles and duties



Well-being - I know and understand what care, support and opportunities are available to me and I get the help I need, when I need it, in the way I want it;

Securing rights and entitlements - My rights are respected, I have voice and control, I am involved in making decisions that affect my life, my individual circumstances are considered, I can speak for myself or have someone who can do it for me and I get care through the Welsh language if I need it.

- As of april 2016, a person exercising functions under the act will be required to demonstrate 'due regard' to the united nations conventions.

Rights – UN and European Conventions



United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

United Nations Principles for Older Persons

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

European Convention on Human Rights

NON-INSTRUCTED ADVOCACY

- Non-instructed advocacy takes place when a person lacks the capacity to instruct an advocate.
- The non-instructed advocate seeks to uphold the person's rights; ensure fair and equal treatment and access to services; and make certain that decisions are taken with due consideration for all relevant factors which must include the person's unique preferences and perspectives.

(Advocacy QPM, 2014)

In groups: what characteristics are important for an advocate to exhibit?

What would be negative characteristics?



POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS:

- A calm thoughtful and sensitive disposition
- The ability to raise relevant issues on behalf of the person in an appropriate and fair manner
- Good at building relationships with people
- Provision of support to individual when upset
- Ensure the person's views are discussed and incorporated
- The ability to be succinct, articulate, thorough and offer alternative ways of thinking
- Facilitate understanding among other professionals of the person's situation

(Adapted from Featherstone *et al*, 2012)

- Not taking over but taking the initiative when required
- Making sure that people are seen in a good light
- Spending time finding out what support the person needs and how they want to be supported
- Supporting the adult at their own pace
- Being independent and supporting the person to challenge
- Being flexible
- Being non-judgmental and not easily shocked
- Being reliable
- Making information accessible
- Considering whether meetings are the best way to include people.

(LAWTON, 2006)

REFERENCE LIST

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