

What is independent advocacy in health and social care?

An independent advocate may be helpful if there is any disagreement between you, your health or social care professionals or even family members about a decision that needs to be made. An independent advocate should **represent your wishes without judging or giving a personal opinion**.

Why is promoting independence important in health and social care?

It can help their physical and mental health, boost their confidence and self-esteem, and improve their sense of purpose and quality of life. It can help them feel useful, which is especially important if they tend to fear they're a burden on loved ones

Social work and advocacy

Independent advocates are – as the name suggests – **fully independent of the service system**. They work with a person to enable them to fully communicate their views, and help them explore their options without seeking to influence which option is chosen

What is the independent advocacy role under the CARE Act 2014?

Section 67 of the Care Act 2014 (“the Act”) imposes a duty on local authorities to arrange for an independent advocate to be available **to represent and support certain persons for the purpose of facilitating those persons' involvement in the exercise of functions by local authorities**.⁶ Oct 2014

What are the disadvantages of advocacy?

Advocacy does come with some risks, and it's important to become aware of these and map them.

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Internally, some examples of where risks can come from are:

- Loss of funding.
- Loss of staff.
- Funding allocated wrongly.
- Misspent funds.
- Legal confrontations.
- Technology risks.
- What is advocacy in social care?
- “Advocacy is about **supporting people to say what they want, to represent their interests, secure their rights and obtain services they need**. It promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice.

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<https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/Capabilities%20Statement%20older%20people%20ONLINE.pdf> Capabilities Statements Older people

<https://www.basw.co.uk/capabilities/autistic-adults> Autism related

<https://www.basw.co.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/anti-poverty-practice-guide-social-work> poverty related