



ECAY6002 Assessment 2. Dennis Warwick.

Develop a 'Blog Post' which demonstrates your in-depth understanding of an advocacy issue of your choice.

Use Microsoft 365 SWAY to present your work.

The advocacy issue of my choice will therefore be to encourage all advocates to ensure that their very first meeting with clients is all encompassing and guarantees that the client is aware of our professional boundaries and what we can and cannot do.

This assessment will demonstrate my in-depth understanding in relation to the content and highly important nature of the very first meeting between an Independent Professional Advocate and their client or young person. I will examine and use theory, policy and practice throughout. I will identify and critically engage with appropriate standards relating to children in care or children in need, as they are my specific interest group or cohort. We will briefly develop a critical understanding of how current legislation developed a framework of measures specifically designed to maintain professional boundaries, professional practices and in the provision of effective advocacy services. We will also briefly look at the role of formal advocate as governed by professional standards. We will use and utilise, according to Deweyan (1931 – 1982) theory a pragmatist ontology and lens

through which to view this submission. It's epistemology is one that best solves problems and has change as it's underlying aim', throughout. According to Hammond (2015), 'pragmatists understand that there are many different ways of interpreting the world and that no single point of view can ever give the entire picture and that there are likely to be multiple realities'. 'Pragmatists will see knowledge as fallible'.

To begin with we will examine briefly relevant legislation, policies, guidance and standards, how they impact on our client interactions and professional relationships sometimes in very difficult situations. The Legislation will include:

1. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014), Part (10). Chapter (3).
2. The Children Act 1989. (sections 17 & 26A). looked After Child and Child in Need.
3. The National Standards for the Provision of Children's Advocacy Services (2003).
4. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. (UNCRC).
5. Rights of Children and Young Person's (Wales) Measure (2011)

We must throughout protect not only ourselves but always our clients both from us, themselves and organisations. Hardy (2017) points out that 'advocates must always operate within professional boundaries', which include client focus, by placing the needs of your service users at the centre of any decisions you make about and with them, (BASW) argue that Professional relationships are;

1. Time Bound.
2. Have a distinct role and purpose.
3. Have Structure.
4. One Participant will hold power, be trained and supported in the role.
5. The power balance is in favour of the professional.
6. The professional has responsibility for the welfare of the non-professional and there are rules and boundaries that guide the relationship.

This is relevant in all walks of life.

This relationship needs to be built as fast as the client is able and allows. As with any building the foundations must be strong and secure. Honesty, empathy and mutual trust are good cornerstones to build on. This is relevant in all walks of life. You need empathy, but not sympathy in any form. As an independent Professional Advocate, (IPA) you start well before your first meeting, by using the 7 Ps, which are Proper, Planning, and Preparation, Prevents, Piss, Poor, Performance, according to the old Military adage. This is relevant in all walks of life. Part of the preparation should include the planning to arrive for the meeting with all required but importantly a few minutes early, thus

showing respect for your client not excuses. Try and dress clean, smart and casual, avoid power dressing. Show your Identification and strive not to dominate.

First Face to Face. Making the Advocacy agreement.



1. Greet them, shake hands, say who you are and you can call me
2. Ask how would you like me to refer to you ?.....
3. Ask them are you happy to talk with me ?.....
4. Do you mind if I take notes, we can read them over and check them at the end.
5. Would you like this service in another language ?.....
6. Would you like someone different say Female as opposed to me. It depends on your preferences and the things you want to discuss.
7. Would you like someone to sit in with us on this first occasion.
8. Do you know what an advocate is ?.....
9. Can I explain what I can and Cannot do as an Independent Professional Advocate, would it help a bit ?.... You can ask me questions at any time just speak up.

As an Advocate I am:

1. A worker just for you, I can only work for you and not Parents, Carers, Social Worker's or Teachers. I am an independent person, who doesn't work for the Social Services, I work for an advocacy charity.
2. I am here to listen to you, yes to listen to you, about your Thoughts, Wishes and Feelings. I am not here to judge you in any way.

3. I am not here to tell you what you can or cannot do. I usually start things, stop things or change things with or for you depending on your views, wishes and feelings.
4. I would be your advocate, you would be in control and would be my boss, while, I work with you.
5. Importantly, I cannot do anything unless you give me permission, ask me or we agree it as part of our advocacy plan forward. It is called my mandate from you to proceed.
6. I do not have a magic wand but will always be truthful to you and will always do my best for you, with your permission.

Safeguarding.



1. As an advocate and child care worker, what you say to me would be confidential and would remain private unless 1. you tell me something involving police and or crime. 2. You tell me something involving harm to you or another. 3. You give me permission to share it with someone else. 4. I discuss it as part of my supervision within the team. My manager is also bound by confidentiality, same as me.
2. Remember we have a complaints procedure which I will help you complete even if it is against me, any time.

Data Storage and Protection. Leaflet and info, pack, including freebies. Any further questions.

Thank you for kindly listening, checking, signing and working so hard on your advocacy plan, It's much appreciated. I will now take this forward as per your wishes.

References.



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