

**"The help I received
from my advocate
was second to none,
I cannot thank you
enough"**



Derbyshire Independent Community Advocacy Service



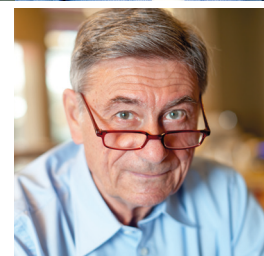
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**Help to have
your voice heard**

Community Advocacy

Some people may not be eligible for advocacy under the Care Act but may still require support to have their voice heard when important decisions are being made about their lives or to overcome issues that are impacting on their health and wellbeing.

This may include, but is not limited to:

- health services and related issues
- social care services and related issues
- child protection processes
- support at welfare benefits medical assessments

Advocates can support people to:

- Express their wishes, concerns & opinions
- Speak on their behalf where necessary
- Provide information to enable people to make their own choices

Who can access the service?

This service is available to Derbyshire residents aged 18 or above including people with learning disabilities, mental ill health, physical or sensory disabilities, people with Autism or Asperger's and older people.

Anyone can refer.

Care Act Advocacy

Some people find making decisions about health and care needs difficult. The Care Act gives the right for eligible people to get an independent advocate to help them understand and be fully involved in the following processes:

- assessment
- support planning & review
- safeguarding enquiries or reviews

Advocacy is available for people who do not have any friends or family (an appropriate individual) available to support them.

There are also times when an advocate should be provided even where the person has an appropriate individual to support them:

- A placement is being considered in NHS funded provision in a hospital or care home and the local authority believes it would be in the best interests of the individual to arrange an advocate
- There is disagreement between the local authority and the appropriate individual and they both agree that the appointment of an advocate would be beneficial to the person

A referral will be made by your social worker.

Take control & have your voice heard

Your advocate can:

- help you to say what you want
- go to meetings with you
- write letters with you
- find out information for you



“I’ve felt involved, it’s important to be heard, no-one is taking over”