

Advonet Offices Open Day

The Advonet offices will be open to visitors on Tuesday 1st March 2016. Please visit our offices between 10.30am—3.30pm to learn more about the services provided and to find out more about advocacy in Leeds.

- Come and find out how we can help and support organisations across Leeds;
- Explore how advocacy can add value to the services you provide;
- See how advocacy is giving people from all communities across Leeds a voice at a time when many groups are struggling to be heard.

Advonet is based at Unity Business Centre, 26 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS7 1AB. There is on street parking nearby or you can use the car park across the road at the Ramgarhia Centre, at a cost of £2.

Katie Whitham

Single Point of Access Team

The Single Point of Access team (or SPA as it is affectionately known) aims to be the first point of contact for anyone in Leeds who needs advocacy or information relating to advocacy – for themselves or on behalf of someone else. As well as taking referrals and offering telephone and one-off advocacy for clients where possible, we also provide administrative support for the whole organisation - so we are kept very busy!

At the moment, the team consists of 2 Assistant Referrals Administrators, 2 Advocacy Assistants and a Coordinator. As the team has only come together fairly recently as our result of our merger last year, we have been working hard over the past few months to build our skills and set up clear processes so that we can offer a supportive, professional and timely service to everyone that contacts us. We are looking forward to taking many more new referrals as the year progresses, and raising awareness of all the different types of advocacy work that Advonet (and our partner organisations) can offer to clients.

If you would like to make a referral for advocacy, or want to find out more about what we do please feel free to call us on 0113 244 0606 or email office@advonet.org.uk and the SPA team will be happy to help.

Lucy Graham

Bilingual Advocacy Project

Bilingual Advocacy is delivered through surgeries situated at different venues around Leeds. At present we have successfully established six surgeries and we are in the process of setting up additional ones, focussing on increasing the range of languages. Currently we are able to provide support for clients speaking Arabic, Cantonese, Czech, Farsi, Lithuanian Mandarin, Mirpuri, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish and Urdu. The surgeries run on a drop in and appointment basis, depending on the surgery.

Clients are supported on a face to face basis at the surgeries but home visits and outreach appointments can also be arranged. The days and times of the surgeries are listed below.

Monday: Drop – In, Roundhay Resource Centre - 10am – 3pm (All languages)

Tuesday: Drop – In, Roundhay Resource Centre 10am – 12pm (All Languages)

Wednesday: Appointments Only-made by school staff members Bankside Primary School - 12.30pm – 3pm (Punjabi/Urdu/ Mirpuri)

Thursday: Hovingham Primary School - 9am – 12pm (Czech, Slovak, Romanian)

Compton Centre – 10am – 1pm (Czech)

One Community Centre – 10am – 12pm (Arabic, Farsi).

Bushra Javed

Dementia Advocacy Project

The Dementia Advocacy project specialises in advocating for people with dementia and is available to anyone with a dementia condition living in Leeds.

Recognition of the issues around Dementia and the benefits of advocacy has been growing over the last few years. The city has a Dementia strategy to become 'dementia friendly' and the Leeds Dementia Board are funding advocacy for those people recently diagnosed who want independent support to help them make what can be difficult and emotional decisions about their future.

Dementia advocates support those individuals who have Dementia and are;

- Facing a time of uncertainty and change;
- Unable to access relevant information;
- A person whose family or friends are unable able to assist them;
- Needing support in accessing their rights;
- In conflict with family or others;
- In any abuse situation.

Paul Wright & Serena Ayub

Some of the volunteers from the Bilingual Advocacy Project

