

All change at Advonet: New contract and partners revealed



Advonet and its partners Age UK Leeds, SignHealth and Touchstone have been awarded a new five-year contract to provide advocacy services in Leeds.

The consortium will deliver Leeds Independent Health Complaints Advocacy (LIHCA), Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Care Act Advocacy, Mental Health Act Advocacy (IMHA), as well as making sure advocacy is accessible to Leeds citizens who most need it.

We will deliver a range of services and support including a programme of pop-up outreach clinics and self-advocacy groups. We hope to further strengthen relationships with a wide

range of community partners such as LASSN, Shantona and Leeds Gate to support their advocacy provision and to learn how we can better serve all communities.

We're excited to bring Advonet's knowledge together with that of partners old and new. Touchstone has been delivering specialist advocacy, including IMHA outside of Leeds for a number of years and brings experience of co-production and service user involvement.

This includes supporting the Meeting of Minds network in Kirklees, and the co-design of a new national Coproduction Kitemark, which we hope this service will achieve in its

first year of operation.

Age UK Leeds has a long history of providing advocacy to older people. SignHealth provides IMHA nationally and has a Leeds-based deaf advocate.

We will be weaving all these elements together into one seamless service, with seconded staff from the partners forming part of a single multi-skilled advocacy team, able to respond flexibly to diverse needs of clients.

Over the coming months, we will have more details of what we will be changing in May 2018. Meanwhile, if you have any advocacy questions past, present or future, don't hesitate. Please ring us on **0113 244 0606**.

What is Advocacy?

“Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need. Advocates and advocacy providers work in partnership with the people they support and take their side. Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice”

The Advocacy Charter, 2016

We're recruiting! Three new jobs on offer to join our team

We have three job vacancies available to help Advonet provide better advocacy support in the coming months and years. They are Advocacy Director, Advocacy Development and Partnerships Director and Finance Director.

The first two are completely new, whilst the third is available as Emma Williams, our current Finance Director, has accepted a job offer elsewhere.

The Advocacy Director's role is to oversee all of our advocacy provision. They will have experience of time management and team leadership,

and a belief in the power of advocacy. The role of Advocacy Development and Partnerships Director is to help grow advocacy support in Leeds and spearhead Advonet's communications strategy. The Finance Director is responsible for overseeing the money, IT and administration infrastructure of Advonet.

For more info as well as detailed job descriptions and application forms, go to advonet.org.uk/join-us/jobs/ and follow the instructions on the page.

***Please read overleaf for changes to the job application deadlines**

Trustees wanted

We are looking for people to join our board of trustees. Their role is to make sure that we deliver the best possible advocacy support for people in Leeds. They meet once every three months with additional dialogue between these times.

We are looking for people with lived experience and experience in areas like strategic planning, management and finance to join. Contact Philip Bramson by email at philip.bramson@advonet.org.uk to find out more.

Leep1 Open Day

Leep1 are to hold an open day later this year to celebrate their three-year anniversary and unveil a piece of commemorative mosaic art.

This will be produced by Leep1 members with help from Frances Taylor from Mosaic Mania. There will be also be cooking demonstrations on the day from some of Cafe Leep's trainees.

The event is on **Thursday 21st June** at Cafe Leep. Call 0113 243 9477 for more information.

Job application deadline changes

The job application deadline for our new Advocacy Director Role is now **Monday 5th March at 9am**. The deadline for our Advocacy Development and Partnerships Director role is also on **Monday 5th March at 9am**. Applications for our Finance Director role must be in by **Thursday 8th March at 9am**. Visit advonet.org.uk/join-us/jobs/ for forms and job descriptions.

WHAT'S ON NEXT MONTH?

**Tuesday
27th Mar**

Bigger and Better in Leeds 2018 - autism event partially run by the Leeds Autism AIM team
Time: 9:30am-3pm
Venue: Leeds Civic Hall, Calverley St, Leeds LS1 1UR

**Thursday
22nd Mar**

Leep The Bridge Club Night
Tickets: £7 (carers/support workers go in for free)
Time: 7pm-10pm
Venue: Tiger Tiger, 117 Albion St, Leeds LS2 8DY

Funding for Autism project continues until next spring



Leeds Autism AIM have been awarded a further 12 months' funding to keep their advocacy, information and signposting services running. The funding came from the local NHS' Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), which will help to keep their weekly drop-in Autism Hub and fortnightly quieter hub session going until March 2018 at least.

The funding will also help sustain their information and signposting offering. Hundreds of autistic adults across Leeds have accessed info through our autism team's website, via phone and email, and at their hubs. We would like to thank for CCGs for their continued support.

People's Parliament meeting rescheduled



The People's Parliament meeting that was due to take place on Tuesday 27th February has been rescheduled for the following week. It will now take place on **Tuesday 6th March** at the St Matthias Church Centre. Registration starts at **10am** and the meeting itself begins at **10:30am**.

The People's Parliament is the reference group for people living in Leeds who learning disabilities. It feeds into the Learning Disability Partnership Board and is run by our **Asking You!** project. The meeting allows people with learning disabilities to have their say on what the services they use should do for them.

Contact us



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