

Strengthening the city through advocacy

Wednesday 28th June, 10am-2pm, Leeds Civic Hall

What is formal advocacy? Who can benefit from advocacy? How can it combat poverty, assist refugees or people seeking asylum and help people stay safe? How can we strengthen Leeds through advocacy?

All of these questions and many others will be answered on Wednesday 28th June at the Civic Hall from 10am-2pm as part of our event, **Strengthening the City Through Advocacy**, which Advonet, together with other partners including Age UK Leeds, Cloverleaf and Leeds Black Elders Association are hosting.

The purpose of the event is:

- To highlight the diversity of advocacy in the city
- To come up with creative ways in which advocacy can help people facing disadvantage to use their own strengths to overcome challenges particularly



at a time when public resources from benefits to services are being cut back

- To broker conversations between partners about the difference advocacy can make
- To offer introductory training sessions on advocacy principles and to boost the level of informal advocacy and self-advocacy available across Leeds

We are keen to involve as wide a range of partners in the planning and delivery of the day. If you have

an idea for a workshop or would like a stall to highlight how your organisation strengthens the city through advocacy, please get in touch.

However involved you want to be, we would welcome it if you come along on the day and have your say.

If you would like more info, please contact Hilary Ashton either by calling her on **0113 244 0606** or by sending her an email at hilary.ashton@advonet.org.uk.

Advocacy surgery up and running

Advonet now run an advocacy surgery in partnership with Burley Park Practice, Burley Road, Leeds LS4 2EL. The surgery runs every Tuesday from **1pm-5pm**.

The service will be provided using drop-in and appointment systems to ensure it is accessible to all.

Advonet will not only provide advocacy support for patients registered at the doctor's practice, but to others with advocacy needs like visitors or family members; they can contact us and will be directed to the right support.

There is a rising need for advocacy support in GP practices, as it has been identified that health issues are often related to problems in other areas.

If a patient isn't suffering from a medical problem, the GP can refer them to an advocate. Patients can make a referral through the GP, receptionist or self-refer.

Advocates will then support patients on an individual basis and work through any issues they choose to discuss and need support with.

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 schemes work in partnership with the people they support and take their side. Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice.”

The Advocacy Charter, 2002

New AIM website

Leeds Autism AIM now have their own website. It has all kinds of information about the service, as well as the Leeds Autism Strategy and services for autistic adults and parents/carers in Leeds.

Feedback on the site has been very positive, with over 400 views from the end of last month. You can find the website at leedsautismainm.wordpress.com.

Advocacy questions

At Advonet's big Advocacy event in June, we are free to answer any questions you have for our Mental Health Advocacy (MHA), Mental Capacity Advocacy (MCA) and Care Act Advocacy teams.

If you have any questions for our teams, please send them over by email to Paul Wright at paul.wright@advonet.org.uk. He'll get back to you as soon as he can.

Winter Wellbeing

On the 22nd February at the Somali Centre, some of our bilingual advocacy team held a coffee morning, including a presentation about the Winter Wellbeing project.

Its purpose was to inform the centre's clients about how they could use the Community Foundation/Leeds City Council-funded short-term service to be supported to overcome issues like difficulties accessing health services.

Myrte Elbers, Leeds City Council Health Improvement Specialist, attended and spoke positively about the project's outreach model.

The team regularly hold coffee mornings at a number of similar community venues. The project closes at the end of March, just in time for the start of spring.

EVENTS: WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

**Cafe Leep -
St Patrick's Day
Special - Fri 17th
Mar, 11am-2pm -
ring 0113 244
0606 for more
info**

**Volunteer
Open Evening -
Thu 23rd Mar -
4pm-7pm at Cafe
Leep - ring 0113
244 0606 for
more info**

**Talk by
Voluntary
Action Leeds on
volunteering -
Lovell Autism Hub
- Tue 21st Mar -
4pm-5.30pm**

What kind of stool do you take me for?

Leep1 have made some wonderful *Alice In Wonderland*-style stools for people to take wherever they please!

The colourful stools were both made and decorated by Leep1 members and would help to brighten up any space, whether it's the home, an office or drop-in centre. If you would like to take a stool or two for free, please contact us on **0113 244 0606** and we will sort something out.



Contact us



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