

# Help strengthen the city through advocacy



On 28 June Advonet and partners (Age UK Leeds, Cloverleaf, Leeds Black Elders, Leeds Chapeltown CAB, Leeds Gate, Forum Central, Leeds Involving People, Healthwatch, Inclusion North, Leeds Safeguarding Board, Touchstone) will be hosting an event with two goals: to increase awareness of advocacy in Leeds and to explore how an advocacy approach can help people in marginalised groups to resolve some of the challenges they face.

As well as workshops focussing on specific topics such as Advocacy, Mental Health & Refugees and Advocacy Helping People Address Poverty, there will be hour long training sessions on advocacy principles, statutory advocacy and self-advocacy. A programme will be circulated later in the month. The event is aimed at people who are passionate about empowerment and social justice. The event is for you, if you want to understand more about advocacy and explore how it can be threaded through the diverse health, social care and community support across the city. If you would like to know more ring or email Hilary Ashton at [Hilary.Ashton@advonet.org.uk](mailto:Hilary.Ashton@advonet.org.uk) or 0113 2440606.

## 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*

You can also book your tickets on [Eventbrite here](#).

If you have any particular needs that you would like the organisers to address in order to facilitate your involvement in the event, please contact Hilary on the details given above.

**To be held at  
Leeds Civic  
Hall from  
10am - 2pm.**



## AIM hub changes

Leeds Autism AIM has made some changes to its autism hubs. While the Vale Circles Autism Hub on Thursdays is now closed because of changes in funding, a new, quieter session for booked appointments and groups will run fortnightly. It takes place at the Lovell Park Hub, and started on **Friday 28th April** running from **4pm to 7pm**. Meanwhile, the Tuesday drop-in at Lovell's hours have changed. From the start of April, it is running from **3.30pm to 7pm**.

## Training news

Do you know that Advonet delivers Effective Advocacy and Negotiation Skills training? We deliver these courses for staff and volunteers for organisations in Leeds and around the region. These two day courses are free for those working or volunteering in Leeds. More information can be had by contacting Hilary at the details below. Previous participants have said: "A very helpful and well run course"; "I enjoyed every minute of the course".

## We will come to you

As part of our commitment to getting a better understanding of the potential of advocacy to improve people's lives we would love to come to visit groups and hear from potential clients about how we can be better at reaching more people and meeting more needs. Service managers are preparing a brief presentation that they will use to spark discussion with groups such as Together We Can, the network of people in Leeds who share mental health lived experience and People's Parliament, the reference group of the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board for people with learning disabilities. If you are interested in having a visit from members of the Advonet team then please contact our Single Point of Access team on 0113 2440606 or you can email them on [office@advonet.org.uk](mailto:office@advonet.org.uk). The team will take your details and pass them on to one of the service managers.

## EVENTS: WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Thurs  
18th May

**Leep The Bridge Club Night at Tiger Tiger 7pm-10pm with Elvis tribute act.**

**Contact Leep1 on 0113 2439477**

Tues  
30th May

**Ruth Williams will be speaking about her autism specific counselling services and how to access them. Ruth will be at the Lovell Park Autism Hub from 4pm-5.30pm.**

## Supporting community voices and conversations

Advonet's Bilingual Advocacy has been successful in applying for funding from Leeds North Clinical Commissioning Group (LNCCG). The funding is to run a project over a year to improve the standard of health and reduce inequalities in Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities. We will develop links between health professionals and patients to support the CCG's key priorities. The aims are to increase access to healthcare services in BME communities, especially for newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers; to support the communities to access healthcare services in the best way for their needs; to improve support for people with long term conditions and encourage people to manage their own health better.

We have recruited two project workers who have a range of skills, knowledge and experience relating to BME communities. They will work with the Bilingual volunteers to increase community engagement and liaise with the social prescribing services to make sure services are accessible to people from BME communities.

We are confident the project will result in sustainable and positive outcomes for the communities we reach.

### Contact us



“**Advonet**  
Providing Independent Advocacy  
& Related Support”

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**Single Point of Access (SPA) number: 0113 244 0606**

**YouTube: Search for 'Advonet UK'**