

Care Act advocacy: Spread the word

Since the Care Act came into force on 1st April 2015, Advonet has received 158 referrals, an average of just five a month.

We are concerned that this figure is lower than might be expected in a city the size of Leeds.

We also fear that not everyone yet knows of this new entitlement, especially given that take up rates of Care Act advocacy are low across the country.

To address this issue locally we want to raise awareness of this, still relatively new, service.



Who is entitled to advocacy under the Care Act?

The act says local authorities must make sure all adults in their area have access to information and advice on their care and support and to keep them safe from abuse and neglect.

There are just two conditions that must be met for someone to receive advocacy under the Care Act:

- The person has substantial difficulty

in being fully involved to make decisions about their care and support AND

- There is no one appropriate and available to support and represent their wishes

If this is the case, a social worker can make a referral for an independent advocate to ensure a person is involved in their assessment, care and support planning and/or review or

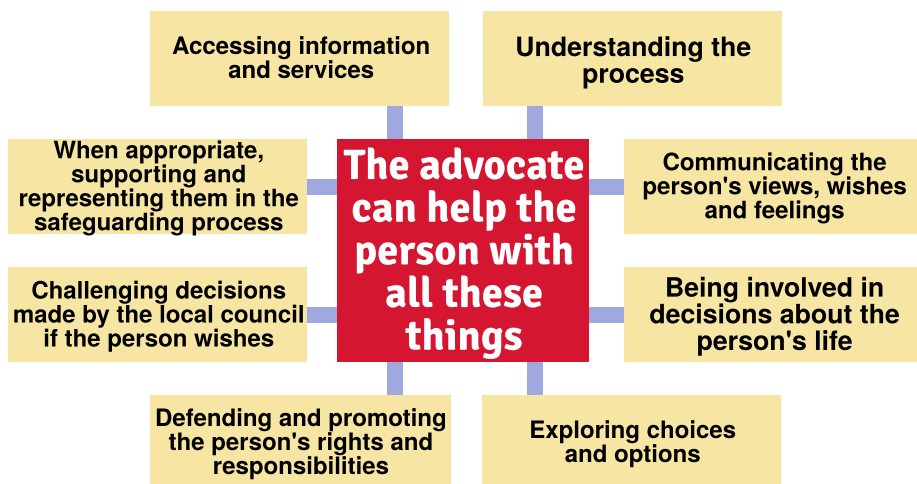
a safeguarding enquiry.

People who may be entitled to an independent advocate include older people. Advonet has partnered with Age UK Leeds who have specialist knowledge in this area.

Others who are entitled to an independent advocate may include people, for example, who:

- Are a carer, including young carers
- Have a learning disability
- Have autism
- Have a physical disability
- Misuse substances
- Are a young person aged 16-18 in transition to Adult Services

What does the Care Act advocate do?



Want to know more?

If you would like representatives from Advonet to come and talk to your organisation, please ring us on **0113 244 0606** and ask for Fiona Jenkins, who manages the Care Act team.

Referrals can be made through the person's Social Worker, or if you have further enquiries about advocacy, please contact Advonet on **0113 244 0606**, who will be able to help.

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

Welcome new staff

This month, we welcomed three new members of staff to Advonet! Julia Kinch joins us as Asking You's new Volunteer Coordinator. Previously, she had volunteered for Advonet as a citizen advocate.

We also have two new members of our Single Point of Access (SPA) team. Ely Click and Ellen Dimuantes start work as Advocacy Assistants.

We wish all three of our new team members the very best of luck in their roles.

AIM evaluation out

An evaluation of our Leeds Autism AIM service, conducted by a lecturer from Leeds Beckett University, has now been published.

Dr Kris Southby, who spoke to staff, volunteers and service users in 2016, released it on Leeds Beckett's blog.

Dr Southby talks about the successes of the Autism Hub and its role in filling gaps left by other services. You can read it here: leedsbeckett.ac.uk/media-centre/blog/1117-supporting-adults-with-high-functioning-autism/

Leep1's Xmas Ball

Leep1 are making plans for this year's Christmas Ball. Their annual do will take place at the Royal Armouries in Leeds Dock and is open to all of Leep1's members.

The Ball takes place on **Monday 11th December** and tickets cost **£28**. As part of the ticket price, attendees will be treated to a three-course meal, while there is a bar serving drinks.

To come along, you need to book a ticket in advance. To book, ring Leep1 on **0113 276 2720**.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

Friday
24th Nov

Beatles Day at Cafe Leep - 11am
Unit 1, Unity Business Centre, Leeds LS7 1DA

Every
Monday

Bilingual advocacy drop-in
Unit A4, in the Advonet office
9:30am-10:30am

Tuesday
28th Nov

Cafe Autistique: Self-improvement and life hacks
Lovell Autism Hub
5:30pm-6:30pm

Cafe Leep just miss out on Britain's Best Cafe award



Cafe Leep just missed out on being named 'Britain's Best Cafe' at an award ceremony held on Thursday 9th November. The winners were the Super Sausage Cafe in Northamptonshire.

Darren, Angie and Colleen from Cafe Leep were invited to the ceremony in London. They were treated to champagne, a meal and met all the regional winners.

No matter what happened at the ceremony, Cafe Leep are definitely winners in our eyes!

People's Parliament held this month



On Tuesday 14th November, our Asking You! project ran the latest People's Parliament meeting at St Matthias' Church Centre in Burley. The meeting is the reference group for the Partnership Board for people with learning disabilities in Leeds, attracting a bumper crowd!

At the meeting, they talked about hospital passports, being safe and being well. After the lunch break, some of the people who attended the People's Parliament went to the Christmas Market in the centre of Leeds.

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'