

# The Advonet Group

Providing Independent Advocacy

## IMCA

### Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy

**Providing independent Mental Capacity advocacy in Leeds**



**As part of a consortium, The Advonet Group, Touchstone and Age UK Leeds are working together to give people in Leeds a voice. We provide independent advocacy for you.**

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# IMCAs and the MCA

The **Mental Capacity Act (MCA)** is legislation about supporting and protecting vulnerable people who are unable to make their own decisions.

The **Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)** will make sure that people are as involved as possible in important decisions and that these are in their best interests.

Our IMCA team supports people aged 16 and over.

## How to engage an IMCA

You can refer for an IMCA if the person is:

- Facing decisions about change of accommodation, serious medical treatment, are being assessed for or subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and:
- Assessed as lacking capacity to make these decisions, and;
- Has no appropriate family or friends to consult

An IMCA referral can also be made to support someone who has an unpaid Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) to ensure that the representative understands their rights.

The statutory authorities (Leeds City Council or NHS services in Leeds) have a duty to instruct an IMCA if the criteria above are met. The statutory authorities may also involve an IMCA in safeguarding cases and some care reviews when the person is assessed to lack capacity.

IMCAs also support people who are under **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)** to make sure that any decisions made are the least restrictive possible.

# What an IMCA can do

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## What an IMCA can do

- Work with decision-makers to get the best outcome
- Find out the person's wishes, feelings, values and beliefs in private
- Represent the person
- Access relevant health and social care records
- Challenge the decision on behalf of a person if necessary
- Seek a second medical opinion where appropriate
- Submit a report
- Ensure that any decisions made on a person's behalf are made in that person's best interests

## What an IMCA can't do

- IMCAs do not assess a person's capacity; this is the responsibility of the decision maker
- Make the decision on behalf of the person who lacks capacity
- Make a decision on behalf of the decision maker
- IMCAs do not provide continuing advocacy support when the decision making process is completed
- IMCA is not an emergency service; you do not have to instruct an IMCA in an emergency

# Contact us

We have a first contact team that can help you. To find out which advocacy service is the right one for you or to make a referral, you can contact us by phone, email, post or via our website.



**0113 244 0606**

**Opening times: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm**



**Email us at [office@advonet.org.uk](mailto:office@advonet.org.uk)**



**Text: Include your name then send to [07719 859 694](tel:07719859694)**



**Unity Business Centre  
26 Roundhay Road  
Leeds LS7 1AB**



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