



Community Advocacy Workshop:

How advocacy services can be better embedded within communities



... Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice. Advocacy Charter 2002, Action for Advocacy

Aim of the workshop



There is a risk that advocacy is becoming disjointed and focused on single issues. Advocacy services are becoming restricted to delivering specific task based advocacy on a limited number of issues.

The impact of advocacy is therefore becoming severely limited and people are often left without support on things that matter to them.



This workshop will look at what we mean by community advocacy and how we ensure that we 'promote social inclusion, equality and social justice.'

We will explore some challenges faced by advocates and bring together ideas and innovative examples through conversations facilitated by Karen Blair (NCompass) and Patsy Corcoran (Asist).



We will share ideas and examples of advocacy work that helps to maintain and increase a person's connections within and to their community life.

We invite you to join us to pilot ways of working in statutory and non statutory advocacy which supports people through a community based approach.

We will ask you to make a 'pledge on a postcard'. This will be posted back to you in a few weeks time.

Workshop plan

1. Pen picture

Please create a pen picture of you or your organisation showing; who you are, what you do, what you bring and what you can share. This helps us to see the range of assets we can share with each other.



who we are - identity

what we bring - strengths

what we do - services

what we can share - for free

Workshop plan

2. Lets get the conversation started...



Advocacy services often work creatively to ensure that advocacy partners are supported with the things that matter to them.

However, finding time and ways to 'promote social inclusion, equality and social justice' is becoming more and more difficult in a climate of austerity, reduced funding for non statutory advocacy and increased pressures on advocacy organisations.



At the National Advocacy Conference 2017 Kate Mercer said we are doing OK in advocacy but doing OK is not good enough, we need to support people to get a life, not get a service. Conversations about community advocacy flowed throughout the conference and beyond.



Advocates have been working for a long time to deliver a range of quality support for people in their community and help build community capacity.

Organisations work with community members to raise awareness, develop advocacy skills, providing guides and resources, signposting and working in partnership with the voluntary and other sectors.

Rethinking Advocacy

In 2011 Inclusion North and NHS North East developed a project in response to issues raised by the abuse at Winterbourne View. The project developed further with a focus on advocacy provision in the community.

The project identified the need for more types of advocacy including self and peer advocacy. The report 'Rethinking Advocacy' is based on the 4 years work of the project along with a series of consultative workshops across the North East region and the Yorkshire and Humber region in 2015.

Rethinking Advocacy suggests that advocacy organisations could rethink their provision by focusing 20% of advocacy on self or citizen advocacy.

<https://inclusionnorth.org/uploads/attachment/721/rethinking-advocacy.pdf>

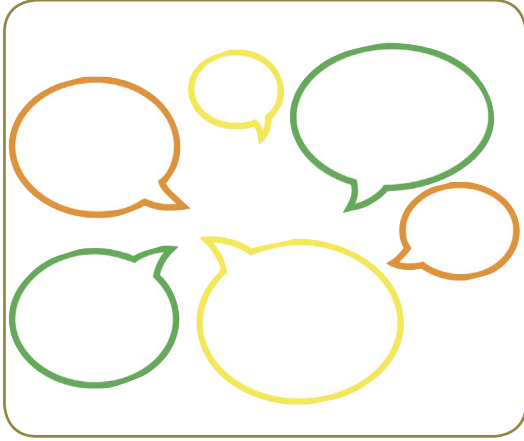
We are working with Kate Mercer to develop a pilot: providing statutory and non statutory advocacy which supports people using a community based approach.

We want to:

- learn and understand what works (and what doesn't work)
- gain insight into how community based advocacy can enhance (or not) the impact of advocacy on a person's life
- Develop written guidance to share with advocacy services and commissioners.

If you would like to join us, share your thoughts and experiences please let us know. We look forward to working together, learning and sharing as we go.

Workshop



3. What is community advocacy, in your words and in your work? what gets in the way?

Share thoughts and ideas, record on flipcharts what community advocacy means and share examples of how you deliver statutory and non statutory advocacy using a community based approach. Think about how we include people who are not currently eligible for our services.



4. What can we do to push the reach of advocacy in the community?

Think about our strengths, the tools we have, the opportunities to collectively influence change.



Think about using human rights legislation, 5 ways to wellbeing principles, 8 domains (from non instructed advocacy) to ensure a person's community life is at the heart of our advocacy work. Think about using social impact/social value reports and quality marks to promote support for commissioning community advocacy.

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