



CARDIFF AND VALE ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Vale of Glamorgan Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny
Committee

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visit our website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

ADVOCACY

Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain the 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.

- Advocacy Charter, Action for Advocacy (2002)

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING (WALES) ACT 2014



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.gov.wales

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 Part 10 Code of Practice (Advocacy)



CARDIFF AND VALE ADVOCACY STEERING GROUP

The Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board set up a Steering Group to:

- **Update the RPB on the current position of Advocacy across the region**
- **Remove any barriers to accessing advocacy across the region**
- **Expose and rectify any gaps in provision across the region**
- **To co-produce a regional Commissioning Strategy to set out the RPB's vision for advocacy services for the next five years**

ADULT ADVOCACY IN THE REGION

- Both Councils commission advocacy separately and slightly differently.
- Long standing contracts with four main local advocacy services, who provide:
 - **Advocacy for older people and people living in Care Homes**
 - **Advocacy for adults with learning disabilities**
 - **Advocacy for adults with Care & Support needs**
 - **Advocacy for Carers with Support needs.**
- The addition of the Cardiff and Vale Advocacy Gateway provides a single access point for adult advocacy services for professionals and the public.

FORMING OF CARDIFF AND VALE ADVOCACY STRATEGY

- Introduction of Independent Professional Advocacy (IPA).
 - **The Local authority must arrange for the provision of an IPA when a person can only overcome the barriers to full participation with the assistance of an appropriate individual, but there is no appropriate individual available.**
- Identification of gaps in service provision
 - **Advocacy for parents whose children are known to CYPS**
 - **Emergency access to advocacy**
- Identification of gaps in awareness among professional groups and the public
 - **Variable understanding of professional duty to arrange advocacy**
 - **Variable understanding of the value of independent advocacy**
- And the Golden Thread Advocacy Programme

CONSULTATION

- The Cardiff and Vale Advocacy Strategy was informed by consultation with the public, health & social care professionals, advocates and people who use advocacy.
 - **Provision of all types of advocacy was seen as important to meet the advocacy of needs of people at different stages, not just IPA.**
 - **Rapid access to advocacy was seen as important as issues are often time critical.**
 - **Advocacy must be available through transition.**
 - **Need for both generic and specialist advocacy e.g. Substance misuse, DFGs, parent carers**
 - **Profile of advocacy needs to be promoted across health and social care to ensure nobody is felt without a voice**
 - **Advocacy providers should provide a consistently high quality service – Advocacy Quality Mark**

4 PRINCIPLES

- Adopting a systemic co-productive approach with all stakeholders
 - **We will co-produce methods for reviewing the benefits of advocacy through engagement with people who use advocacy and other partners**
- Forming purposeful, collaborative relationships between local authorities, health boards and providers.
 - **We will develop joint services based on principles of co-production.**
- Sharing a common understand of what advocacy is and the specific role of independent professional advocacy
 - **We will ensure ongoing engagement with providers to raise awareness and deliver comprehensive and inclusive services.**
- Sharing a common agreement about when IPA is appropriate and always considering other forms of advocacy
 - **We will develop a network of advocacy champions to raise awareness and widen the reach of advocacy**

NEXT STEPS

- Collaboratively produce a commissioning model and service specifications that provides flexible and accessible advocacy for all.
 - Jan – March 2022: Develop service spec and tender docs
 - April 2022: Open route and Contract Notice
 - July 2022: Award Contracts
 - August –October 2022: Transition period
 - November 2022: Contract commencement
- Co-produce a communication strategy to raise awareness widen reach of advocacy for all citizens in lead up and following new commissioning arrangements
- Develop collaborative model for monitoring and review of advocacy services engaging with people who use advocacy.