

Advocacy

An adult who has been abused, or who is at risk of abuse can consider different types of advocacy.

1. Formal advocacy – provided by a solicitor, for example
2. Self advocacy, perhaps with the support of a group of people with similar issues e.g. MIND
3. A paid advocate from a specialist advocacy organisation e.g. VOCAL
4. An informal advocate such as a friend or relative
5. From April 2007 an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate for people who lack capacity when specific decisions need to be made, where no suitable informal advocate is available (see Mental Capacity Act in the legal update)
6. Advocacy from the person's key worker e.g. social worker, nurse

It is not always easy to find advocacy for a vulnerable adult and so it is important to consider all aspects of a person's life to see if there is someone who knows them, who could help in this particular instance. The adult themselves should be in control of who this is, wherever possible.

Work is underway in Devon & Torbay to scope current advocacy provision and look at future commissioning.