
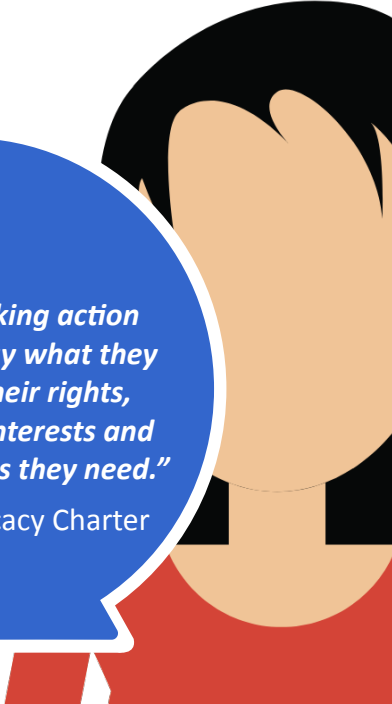




## Building Community Advocacy at Ardenleigh



**"What is  
Advocacy and  
how can it help  
ME?"**



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

*\*Advocacy Charter*

**FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE**

Coming into forensic services can be very daunting for everyone involved. You may be unsure of:

- Rules...what are they and do I have to comply?
- What will happen to you?
- How long you will have to stay here?
- Having visits from family and friends?
- Entitlement to community leave?

**The law says that you are entitled to a specialist advocate who is trained to work within the framework of the Mental Health Act 1983.**

**As advocates we are here to support you and no-one else, we are completely independent from the NHS and other services.**

## **We can support you to**

- Understand your individual rights under the Mental Health Act 1983.
- Find out whether any conditions or restrictions apply to you.
- Understand the rights of other people, such as Nearest Relatives under the Act.
- Find out impartial information about treatment.
- Prepare for and attend meetings.
- Request a review of your section and to access a mental health tribunal.
- Raise concerns about your experience and/or treatment and care in hospital.
- To be fully involved in your care planning.
- Speak up at ward rounds or care reviews.
- Understand any medical treatment you may be receiving and the reason for it.
- Explore options to ensure you can make better informed decisions.


## How?

- We will contact you or visit you on the ward to discuss any concerns you have.
- We will explain what options are available to you.
- We will, if you wish and if appropriate, act on your behalf.
- Represent you at ward rounds or other meetings.
- Feedback any responses raised on your behalf with your team or other professionals.
- Provide you with independent impartial information.
- Signpost you to other agencies & professionals.

## Confidentiality

Conversations between you and your advocate are strictly confidential. Your advocate will not give any information you have disclosed without your complete consent.

The only exception to this is if you disclosed you were going to harm yourself or someone else.



*“As advocates we are here to support you and no-one else, we are completely independent from the NHS and other services.”*

**Advocates name**

**Telephone number**

**Email address**

If you would like to make a comment, compliment or complaint about the advocacy service, write to us at the address below:

**Building Community Advocacy**

C/O The Deaf Cultural Centre  
Ladywood Road,  
Birmingham,  
B16 8SZ.

**Tel:** 0121 246 6100

**Email:** [Laura.Morris@bcadvocacy.org](mailto:Laura.Morris@bcadvocacy.org)

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