



Independent Advocate One Advocacy

Salary: £21,266 - £23,323 (dependent upon experience)

Hours of Work: 30 - 37.5 hours per week

Status: Permanent

Location: Hybrid working - primarily remote working as well as working from our office in Derby City (DE1 2EQ) and attending locations around Derby City.

Applications Closing Date: rolling recruitment – when suitable candidate is found

Start Date: ASAP

One Advocacy is seeking to recruit an Independent Advocate to join our team. One Advocacy is part of Citizens Advice Mid Mercia. Below you will find information about the role of Independent Advocate along with all that you need to apply.

The Service

One Advocacy is commissioned by Derby City Council to deliver Independent Advocacy in Derby City.

We provide specialist independent advocacy support focused on one-to-one, issue based advocacy services.

One Advocacy provides the Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy service (IMCA) including the Relevant Persons Paid Representative Role (RPPR) under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), the Independent Mental Health Advocacy service (IMHA), Independent Advocacy under Care Act 2014, NHS Complaints Advocacy and Non-statutory Advocacy in Derby City.

The Role

The Independent Advocate will provide professional advocacy under the Mental Capacity Act, Mental Health Act, Care Act and other relevant legislation where appropriate, to eligible adults, to ensure that their wishes, feelings, beliefs, and needs are taken into account in decisions around their care and support, and that their rights are upheld.

Responsibilities

- Report directly to the Advocacy Services Manager
- Work within the principles of the Advocacy Charter and Advocacy Code of Practice
- Work within the relevant code of practice for statutory advocacy (IMHA, IMCA and Care Act)
- Accept referrals for independent advocacy support from One Advocacy triage
- Establish and maintain contact with referrers and eligible advocacy partners, where relevant and appropriate, throughout the advocacy support
- Explain the role and scope of the independent advocate including all aspects of Confidentiality
- Gain consent from the advocacy partner to provide advocacy support and renew the consent throughout the advocacy support
- Establish the scope of the advocacy support with the advocacy partner or referrer, where appropriate, within an Advocacy Plan that is agreed between the advocate and the advocacy partner
- Inform the advocacy partner of progress
- Support the advocacy partner at meetings
- Record and maintain accurate, detailed case notes on the case management system in a timely manner
- Ensure that interpreters, including BSL, Makaton, are sourced to attend meetings or discussions where the advocacy partner's first language is not English and/or where the advocacy partner is unable to, or does not wish to, communicate in English
- Prepare reports on the advocacy support provided where relevant and appropriate in a timely manner
- Support advocacy partners to understand what is being considered around their care and support.
- Prepare a report for the responsible body outlining any concerns which may arise about the way in which decisions have been made or about the outcome itself where appropriate.
- Raise any safeguarding issues in accordance with Derby City Council and CAMM Safeguarding policies.
- Receive regular supervision from the Advocacy Services Manager
- Attend regular One Advocacy team meetings
- Participate in Advocate reflective practice meetings

Person Specification

Essential

- IAQ qualified or already studying towards the qualification.
- Knowledge of the statutory regulations and other key guidance covering this work: Mental Capacity Act, Mental Health Act, Care Act.
- Knowledge of the Advocacy Code of Practice, Advocacy Charter.
- Ability to communicate clearly verbally and non-verbally (signing) and in writing.
- Ability to support the involvement of the advocacy partner in the process they are going through.
- Ability to challenge professionals, where relevant and appropriate to ensure decisions are being made in the advocacy partner's best interests .

- Excellent report writing skills that clearly detail the views, wishes, needs and rights of the advocacy partner.
- IT skills – a good, working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel and using case management applications.
- Ability to travel to various locations as needed – driving licence essential.
- Excellent people skills, enabling relationships to be built and maintained internally and externally
- Ability to work as part of a team, sharing learning and ideas
- Strong written and verbal communications skills
- Excellent organisational and planning skills
- The ability to work well under pressure
- Experience of representing a service/organisation at external meetings, and actively contribute
- Experience of working with a diverse range of people with a wide variety of communication needs

Desirable

- Previous experience of working as an independent advocate, as an IMCA, IMHA, Care Act advocate, NHS complaints advocate or acting as a RPPR.
- Previous experience of working with people who lack capacity.
- An understanding of Mental Health issues.

Want to chat about this role?

If you want to chat about the role further, please contact Pete Dempsey by calling 07399071425.

In accordance with Citizens Advice national policy, the successful candidate will be screened by the DBS.

Probation Period

9 months – with possible extension if performance review is required.

Benefits

28 days annual leave plus bank holidays pro rata.

Up to 5% pension contribution.

