



ADVOCACY IN COVENTRY

NON

STATUTORY ADVOCACY

An advocate is someone who supports you to express your wishes and feelings. If you do not feel listened to by a professional, an advocate might be able to help.

If you need help to access services or understand your rights, an advocate might also be able to help you.

Non-statutory advocacy is for people who might not be eligible for support from social services.

Who can have an advocate?

- Aged 17 or over
- Live in Coventry
- You do not need to be diagnosed as autistic or as having a learning disability but many people we work with are.



WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

An advocate is a professional who can help you say what you want or consider different options.

They don't make decisions for you but can help you to understand your choices and make the decision that's right for you.

Advocates help people who are finding it difficult to speak to other professionals.

They can help you access services and make sure your voice is heard.





YOUR ADVOCATE

Your advocate might meet with you and talk about what is happening in your life.

They might ask you what you want to happen or what you would like to change.

Together you should plan how to get what you want.

Your advocate will work with you to identify the steps you need to take to achieve your goal.

Your advocate might work with you for a short time or for longer if you need it.

They can help you to speak to other professionals and explain what you want.

They might talk to you about your rights and what you are entitled to and can support you to ask for what you need.

MORE

ABOUT YOUR ADVOCATE

They will do as much as they can to support you.

They can help you to attend meetings, make phone calls or fill out forms.

If you arrange to have a meeting or phone call with your advocate, it's important that you tell them if you can't attend.

Your advocate might ask you to meet them somewhere in the community or they might want to speak with you on the phone or have video calls with you.



EXAMPLES

OF HOW WE CAN HELP

Parent and family issues

- Child in need assessments
- Education and transition planning

Housing

- Disrepair
- Eviction notices

Healthcare

- Asking for reasonable adjustments
- Specialist referrals

Social care

- Getting a care assessment
- Choosing the right support

Financial

- Benefit appeals
- Debt and money management

Independent living

- Exploring your housing options
- Making adaptations to your home

Making a complaint

- If you do not feel listened to by a professional
- If you are unhappy with actions or decisions made by a doctor or social worker.



CONTACT US **FOR MORE**

Advocacy is free and can support you even if you are not eligible for other services.

● **Things we can't help with**

Unfortunately we can't help with criminal justice or forensic cases, mental health issues, Care Act assessments or Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy.

● **Other Grapevine help**

There are different projects run by Grapevine in Coventry and Warwickshire. Your advocate might ask you questions about your hobbies, health, relationships and work to find out if you could benefit from one or more of these projects.

● **How to contact us**

Please ask to speak to the Advocacy team by calling 024 7663 1040 or send an email to advocacy@grapevinecovandwarks.org.

Our address is 123 Upper Spon Street, Coventry CV1 3BQ.

www.grapevinecovandwarks.org