

Independent Advocacy services in Lambeth

“Advocacy is taking action to support people to say what they want, secure their rights, pursue their interests and obtain services they need. Advocacy providers and Advocates work in partnership with the people they support and take their side, promoting social inclusion, equality and social justice.” (The Advocacy Charter, NDtI 2018)

There are a variety of independent advocacy services in Lambeth, including those that people have a legal right to access in certain situations. Each advocacy service has different eligibility criteria so this guide has been written to help you identify what service may be suitable for you or the people you support.

Care Act Advocacy

Where people would have substantial difficulty in being involved in certain social care processes (listed below), the local authority needs to consider whether there is a carer, relative or friend (an ‘appropriate individual’ who is not paid to support the person) who can support their involvement. If not, the local authority must arrange an independent advocate to be available to support and represent them.

From the first point of contact with a person, the local authority must act to involve that person in these processes. The local authority must consider whether a person would have ‘substantial difficulty’ in any one of the following areas:

- understanding relevant information
- retaining that information
- using or weighing that information as part of the process of being involved
- communicating the individual’s views, wishes or feelings (whether by talking, using sign language or any other means)

The duty on local authorities to consider providing access to an independent advocate applies to a person’s involvement in care and support processes including:

- an adult’s needs assessment
- a carer’s assessment
- the preparation of an adult’s care and support plan or support plan
- a review of an adult’s care and support plan or support plan
- a child’s needs assessment as they transition towards adult care
- a child’s carer’s or a young carer’s assessment
- a safeguarding enquiry or safeguarding adults review

*******Decisions made regarding eligibility for Care Act advocacy are made by the Local Authority undertaking the social care process*******

Who provides this service in Lambeth?

Disability Advice Service Lambeth (DASL) as part of the Independent Living and Carers Partnership (ILCP) provides Care Act advocacy in Lambeth to those aged 18 and over.

DASL's Advocacy Service can be contacted on 020 7501 8966 or via advocacy@disabilitylambeth.org.uk.

More information can be found at <http://www.disabilitylambeth.org.uk/dasl/advocacy/> and <http://www.disabilitylambeth.org.uk/dasl/advocacy/b-advocacy-and-the-care-act/>

Community Support Network (CSN) provide advocacy under the Care Act duties for people whose primary need is their mental health.

CSN can be contacted on 020 7274 4490 or info@csnsl.org.uk.

More information can be found at <http://www.csnsl.org.uk>

Children's Advocacy

The Children Act 1989 gives 'looked after children' (children in care by agreement or under a court order) to the right make representations and complaints to the Local Authority regarding their care arrangements. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 places a duty on Local Authorities to assist looked after children who want to make a complaint.

Relevant guidance from the Government strongly recommends that independent advocacy support should be offered to looked after children for purposes other than complaints, for example to attend meetings with a Social Worker and Looked After Child (LAC) reviews

Who provides this service in Lambeth?

Barnados provide independent advocacy support for Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Children In Need.

Barnados can be contacted on 0808 800 0017 or advocacy2@barnados.org.uk.

More information can be found at http://www.barnados.org.uk/london-advocacy/london_advocacy_your_rights.htm

Community/Issue-based/Generic Advocacy

Typically this type of advocacy support is for people who have a difficulty promoting their rights, speaking up for themselves or being listened to. An advocate can support someone with a particular issue and work to help people empower themselves to develop self advocacy skills.

Who provides this service in Lambeth?

Disability Advice Service Lambeth (DASL) as part of the Independent Living and Carers Partnership (ILCP) range of services provides issue specific advocacy support available for those aged 18 and over who have a difficulty speaking up and who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Older people (55+)
- Disabled adults with physical impairments, sensory impairments, or a learning disability.
- Adults with long term conditions
- Carers (carers under 18 are eligible for other services within the ILCP)

DASL's Advocacy Service can be contacted on 020 7501 8966 or via advocacy@disabilitylambeth.org.uk .

More information can be found at <http://www.disabilitylambeth.org.uk/dasl/advocacy/>

Community Support Network provides community based advocacy for people who have recently been discharged from section under the Mental Health Act 1983, as amended 2007. Their stated priorities are people who are detained in the community on Community Treatment Orders, also known as Supervised Community Treatment. CSN's service prioritises women, people who are new to advocacy or new to mental health services, those for whom English is not their first language and others with communication difficulties. They primarily provide support around issues to do with care and treatment and rights under the Mental Health Act.

CSN can be contacted on 020 7274 4490 or info@csnsl.org.uk .

More information can be found at <http://www.csnsl.org.uk>

Forensic Advocacy

Forensic advocacy is for people with mental health problems who have also committed a criminal offence, which may or may not have been connected to their mental health

Who provides this service in Lambeth?

Community Support Network (CSN) provides forensic advocacy support in various locations.

CSN can be contacted on 020 7274 4490 or info@csnsl.org.uk . More information can be found at <http://www.csnsl.org.uk> and <http://www.csnsl.org.uk/services.html>

Independent Gender-Based Violence Advocacy (IGVAs) Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)

Independent advocates support people experiencing all forms of domestic and gender-based violence, including those at highest risk of serious harm or homicide.

ISVAs are specially trained to support women, children and men who have experienced sexual violence and abuse. IGVAs are advocates who specialise in supporting women and children who have experienced all forms of gender-based violence, such as forced marriage, 'honour'-based violence, female genital mutilation, human trafficking and modern slavery.

Who provides this service in Lambeth?

Refuge provide provides independent domestic, sexual and gender-based violence advocates for women, men and young people – these are known as IDVAs, ISVAs and IGVAs at the Gaia Centre.

The Gaia Centre can be contacted on 020 7733 8724 or via lambethvawg@refuge.org.uk. More information is available at <https://www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/our-services/one-stop-shop-services/the-gaia-centre/>

Independent Health Complaints Advocacy

This service is available to people wanting support to complain against the NHS regardless of their ability to express their views without support.

Who provides this service in Lambeth?

POHwER provides this service.

POHwER can be contacted on 0300 456 2370 or on pohwer@pohwer.net
More information is available at <https://www.pohwer.net/london-ihcas>
<https://www.pohwer.net/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=7f16a5a4-7bf0-41d6-af42-add3f79a7c86>

Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards) IMCA Relevant Persons Paid Representative (RPPR)

Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)

Under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 an IMCA must be instructed by the Decision Maker if the following grounds are met:

- The person is aged 16 or over,
- A decision needs to be made about either a long-term change in accommodation or serious medical treatment,
- The person lacks capacity to make that decision, and
- There is no one independent of services, such as a family member or friend, who is “appropriate to consult”.

An IMCA may also be provided to people for other decisions concerning Care Reviews or Adult Protection regardless of if they have someone that is “appropriate to consult”

*******Referrals are made by the Decision Maker who instructs the IMCA*******

DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards) IMCA

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards are an amendment to the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards created specific IMCA roles to safeguard the rights of the person subject to a restriction to their liberty. The different types of DoLS IMCA are:

- **Section 39A IMCAs** are instructed when there is an assessment in response to a request for a standard authorisation, or a concern about a potentially unauthorised deprivation of liberty.
- **Section 39C IMCAs** cover the role of the relevant person’s representative when there is a gap between appointments.
- **Section 39D IMCAs** support the person, or their relevant person’s representative, when a standard authorisation is in place.

******Referrals are made by the Local Authority (known as the Supervisory Body) ******

Relevant Persons Paid Representative (RPPR)

RPPRs are provided to people who have been lawfully deprived of their liberty in hospital or a care home (residential or nursing) and they do not have someone, such as a friend or family member who is willing and able to act as their representative during the authorised deprivation of liberty. A RPPR is in place to ensure the person’s rights under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are upheld and that the deprivation is lawful, proportionate and in their best interests.

******Referrals are made by the Local Authority (known as the Supervisory Body) ******

Who provides this service in Lambeth?

POHwER provide these services in Lambeth.

POHwER can be contacted on 0300 456 2370 or on pohwer@pohwer.net More information is available at <https://www.pohwer.net/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=f8c85914-9e17-48b0-b944-a14c55b94130> and <https://www.pohwer.net/relevant-persons-paid-representative-service-rppr>

Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA)

An IMHA is an advocate which some patients have a right to access under the Mental Health Act 1983 (Amended 2007). Those eligible are:

- people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 amended in 2007 (even if on leave of absence from the hospital), but excluding people who are detained under certain short term sections (4, 5, 135, and 136)
- conditionally discharged restricted patients
- people subject to guardianship
- people subject to supervised community treatment orders (CTOs).

Other patients, who are informal, are eligible for IMHA services if they are being considered for section 57 or section 58A treatment (i.e. treatments requiring consent and a second opinion). This includes people under the age of 18 who are being considered for electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

People can refer themselves or be referred by a ward staff, clinician or an Approved Mental Health Professional.

Who provides this service in Lambeth?

Community Support Network (CSN) provides this service.

CSN can be contacted on 020 7274 4490 or info@csnsl.org.uk . More information can be found at <http://www.csnsl.org.uk> and <http://www.csnsl.org.uk/services.html>

Whilst every effort is made to ensure this guide is up to date, DASL accepts no responsibility for incorrect information contained in this. DASL also accepts no responsibility for the advocacy support received from services other than its own.