



**Digital
Advocacy Hub**

About Care Act Advocacy



**Easy
Read**

Easy Read



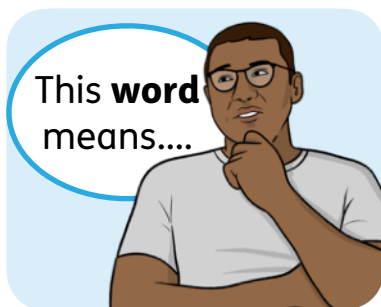
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



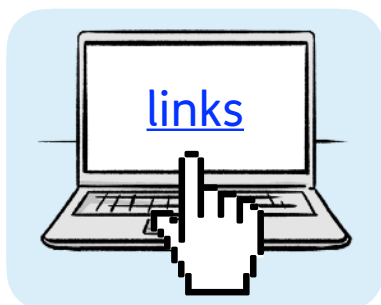
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

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About this booklet



This information is from the n-compass Digital Advocacy Hub - we tell people about their rights.



We will tell you about **Care Act Advocacy** - this is the support the law says you can get to speak up or have someone speak up for you.

What is Care Act Advocacy?



The Care Act 2014 is a law that says how people should get the care they need.



The government made this law to try to give people more say over the care they get.



In this law, it says that people can get an **advocate** if they need one.

An **advocate** is someone who helps you to speak up or speaks up for you.

An advocate can help you:



- Take part in **assessments** - this is when your care needs are checked.



- Take part in checking the care that you get.



- Make decisions about your care and support.



Advocates do not make decisions about your care themselves.

When people will need an advocate



The law says there are 4 areas that might make it difficult for people to make decisions.



Having a problem with these areas is called having a **substantial difficulty**.

To have substantial difficulties with making decisions, you must have problems with one or more of these:



- Understanding the right information.



- Remembering the information.



- Thinking about how important different pieces of information are.



- Telling people about your decisions and what you want to happen.

When must a Care Act Advocate take part?



Your local council must think about whether you need an advocate.



They must think about whether you have a substantial difficulty.



They must also find out if you do not have anyone to support you.



If you have a substantial difficulty and no one to support you, then the council must get an advocate to support you.

What does the Care Act say?



The Care Act has 6 ways that you should be part of making decisions about your care and support.

These are:



1. Professionals should support you to make decisions about your own life when you can.



2. The local council should protect you from harm.

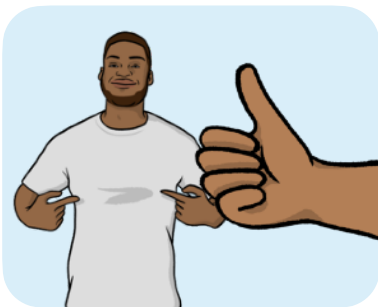


3. The council should plan to support your needs so they do not get worse.

The other ways that the Care Act says you should be part of making decisions about your care and support are:



4. The assessment should use as much information about you as is needed, but not more.



The information is collected to work out what you might need help with.



5. Professionals should work together in different organisations to make sure you get the best care and support.



Professionals should make sure that you agree to them sharing information about you.



Professionals should work together to make sure you are not harmed.

The other ways that the Care Act says you should be part of making decisions about your care and support are:



6. The local council is in charge of making sure you get all the care and support you need.



All professionals working with you should make sure that they take action to keep you safe.



Professionals should make sure you have as much control over your care as possible.

What do Care Act Advocates do?



A Care Act Advocate can support you by:

- Visiting you in your home or where you are living at the time.



- Speaking to you in private about your care.



- Helping you to see your records about your care.



- Meeting with professionals who are part of your care.



- Standing up for what you want to happen.

A Care Act Advocate will:



- Listen carefully to what you tell them.



- Support you to speak up or speak up for you if you need them to.



- Make sure you are part of decisions made about your care.

How can I get a Care Act Advocate?



Your health or care professional will usually contact a Care Act Advocate if you need one.



They can send details about what you need support with to n-compass.



You can also ask your social worker for a Care Act Advocate if you need one.

What other ways can Care Act Advocates give support?

Care Act Advocates can also support with:



- A child's needs assessment.



- A child's carer's assessment.



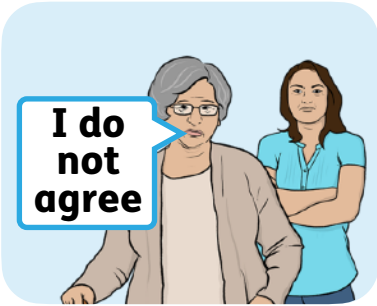
- Young carers' assessments.



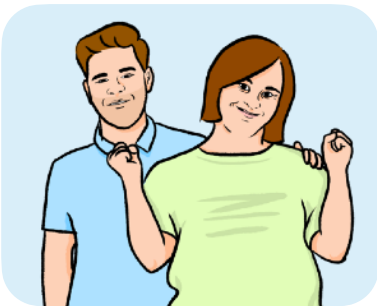
- Questions about **safeguarding** - this is the way that organisations keep people safe.



Care Act Advocates can also support with reviews about adult safeguarding.



An advocate can also help you to challenge a decision if you do not agree with it.



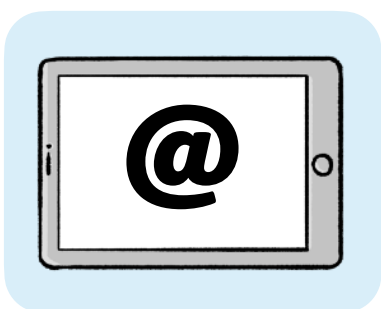
They can also challenge a decision for you if it is not in your best interests.

Find out more



To find out more about how we could help you, you can look at our website here:

www.n-compass.org.uk/our-services/advocacy



You can contact us by sign language video using this website:

www.ncompass.signvideo.net