

CARE ACT ADVOCACY - CARE AND SUPPORT PLANNING

WHAT IS CARE ACT ADVOCACY?





Care Act Advocacy (CAA) is a statutory advocacy role that was introduced in the Care Act 2014. You are legally entitled to advocacy if you meet certain criteria.

A Care Act Advocate can support you if you have difficulties being involved in or making decisions about your care and support needs. The aim of advocacy is to ensure you are able to participate in decisions being made about your care and support, to better enable your wellbeing.

An advocate can support you if you have “substantial difficulty” taking part in assessments and reviews of your care needs. Substantial difficulty is defined in the Care Act.

Advocates do not make decisions themselves about your care review or assessment and they are independent of the decision makers.





Your advocate could support you and be involved in several processes that are undertaken by the local authority such as:-

-  Care Act assessments
-  Care and support planning
-  Care reviews
-  Safeguarding issues

What is care and support planning?

Your needs for care and support are different to another person's and your needs could be met in many different ways. The care and support planning process helps decide the best way to meet those needs.

Several things are considered:

-  What needs you have
-  What you want to achieve
-  What you can do by yourself or with the support you already have
-  What types of care and support might be available to help you in the local area.

How does support planning work?

The care and support planning process is between you, the local authority, your carer (if you have one) and any other person you ask to be involved. The aim is to decide how to meet your needs and agree this with the local authority.

If you lack mental capacity to ask another person to participate, the local authority will consult with important people in your life, such as family, friends and professionals on your behalf. If you have substantial difficulties being involved in the process, you might be eligible for an advocate, if you do not have an appropriate person to support you.

The local authority must produce a plan that sets out the details agreed. They will also tell you about your “personal budget”, an indicative amount of money that the local authority thinks it will cost to arrange your care and support. The total includes any amount the local authority plans to pay itself to provide services.

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Direct Payments

A personal budget gives you an indication of how much your support will cost. You can decide how much control you want to have over your own care and support and using the information in the budget, you can ask the local authority for a direct payment.

A direct payment can be made to you, or someone else acting on your behalf, to pay for the cost of arranging some or all of your support. If you request a direct payment and you meet the conditions in the Care Act and the regulations, the local authority must provide one to you.

What happens after the plan is approved?

Completing the care and support planning process and putting care in place, or arranging for a direct payment to be made, does not mean the local authority's responsibilities end.

The local authority should give you a copy of your plan and also review your plan to check that it is working. They need to know that your needs and outcomes are being met and if anything significant has changed, the authority must carry out a new assessment.

You also have a right to request a review of your care and support plan, if you feel you need one.

Making a contribution toward the cost of care

Some types of care and support are provided free of charge. Depending on your personal finances, the local authority may ask you to contribute towards the costs of your care.

After care costs, the local authority must ensure you still have a minimum level of income. This ensures you will still have some money to spend, even if you need a large package of support.

If you are due to pay charges for your care and support, you might be entitled to a 'deferred payment agreement', through which charges are delayed and you repay the local authority at a later date.

What do Care Act Advocates (CAAs) do in their role?

A CAA can support by:

Visiting you in a care home, hospital or other place.




If they have been appointed to support you, you have the option to speak with them in private.

CAAs can help you to access your care records.

CAAs can meet with professionals and other people who are involved in your care or treatment.

CAAs can represent your views and wishes and try to secure your rights, by challenging decisions that appear not to be in line with your own decisions, views, wishes and feelings.

A CAA will:

-  Listen carefully to what you tell them about your views and feelings.
-  Support you to speak up or speak up on your behalf if needed.
-  Make sure you are involved in decisions being made about you.



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What is the Care Act?

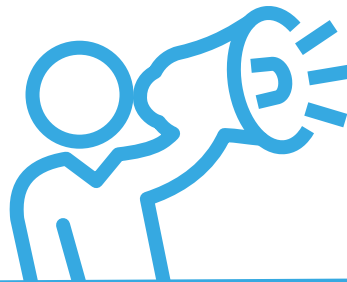
The Care Act 2014 explains how social care in England should be provided. The aim of the act is to improve people's wellbeing and independence by promoting prevention, integration, information, personalisation and quality of care/support services.

How can I make a referral?

Health and social care professionals have a duty to refer clients to Care Act advocacy services in some circumstances. If you are in any doubt whether a referral should be made, please contact us.

Referrals for advocacy support are usually made by health or social care professionals, n-compass asks the referrer to note which area of the Care Act the client requires support with, together with a brief explanation.

If you are involved in a Care Act process as a client, you can self-refer for advocacy support, if a Social Worker is involved in the process.



**TO LEARN HOW ADVOCACY
CAN HELP PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

The n-compass Digital Advocacy Hub provides free and impartial information on a range of common advocacy issues.

n-compass delivers several advocacy services across the north of England.

To find out if we deliver in your locality:-

Website: <https://www.n-compass.org.uk/our-services/advocacy>

Sign video: <https://ncompass.signvideo.net>