

### **Independent Mental Health Advocacy IMHA**

People have a right to free, independent advocacy support relating to care or treatment if the person:

- is detained under the Mental Health Act
- is subject to a Community Treatment Order or a Guardianship
- is being considered for section 57 or 58 treatment.

### **Independent Care Act Advocacy**

People have a right to free, independent advocacy support relating to care and support assessments, planning, reviews and safeguarding processes if the person finds it hard to:

- understand and remember information
- weigh up information and make decisions
- share their views and there is no appropriate person able to support them.

### **Children's Advocacy**

Our advocates are here to support children and young people in Stoke on Trent. Anybody can make a referral for a child or young person to have an advocate, as long as they have their consent.

### **Stoke Advocacy Hub**

Asist provides specialist, independent advocacy, supporting people's right to speak up and be heard.

### **Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy IMCA**

People have a right to free, independent advocacy support if the person lacks capacity following a two-stage capacity assessment.

Lack of capacity to make a specific decision may be due to a temporary or permanent impairment/disturbance of the mind or brain.

IMCA's must be instructed and consulted by decision makers when the person is:

- unable to understand, remember and weigh up information to make specific decisions
- unable to share their views and there is no appropriate person to consult on their behalf.

IMCA's support the person to stay involved in decisions about their serious medical treatment or change of accommodation.

### **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards DoLS**

Advocates support people who may be deprived of their liberty during DoLS assessments, whilst waiting for a RPR/when a 39C authorisation is in place.

### **Relevant Person's Representative RPR**

Advocates can support the person and RPR when the 39D authorisation is in place.

### **Independent NHS Complaints Advocacy**

Advocates support people to make a complaint using the NHS complaints procedure, about care and treatment provided or funded by the NHS.

### **Parents Advocacy**

Advocates support parents with a diagnosed learning disability in meetings when their child is subject to child protection and /or care proceedings.



Asist delivers **Community Advocacy** including BAME Advocacy (people from black and minority ethnic communities) and Group advocacy for people with learning disabilities (Reach).

We provide advocacy tools to raise awareness and to promote clear communication.

" Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice. It takes action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need ".

Advocacy Charter 2002, Action for Advocacy

Professionals have a **duty** to make the independent advocacy referral.

People have a **statutory right** to free, independent advocacy.

Office hours are: Monday to Friday 08.30 - 17.00



referrals@asist.co.uk  
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01782 845584  
text 60777 and start your message with Asist

Advocacy referral forms are available on our website.

**Contact us to enquire about referrals, for information and signposting.**

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## Stoke Advocacy Hub



asist making advocacy a right not a privilege