

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PIN NOTICE 24.09.21**

**Advocacy**

Local Authorities have a legal requirement to commission independent Advocacy Support for vulnerable children and adults who are receiving social care. Advocacy gives people the support and guidance they need when they are not able to access support from their own family and/or close friends. There are a number of different types of advocacy commissioned by the local authority, including:

Relevant Person Representative Advocacy (RPR)

IMHA Advocacy (Mental Health Act)

IMCA Advocacy (Mental Capacity Act)

Care Act Advocacy

Health Complaints Advocacy

Children’s Advocacy

Independent advocates support children and adults in a variety of ways, depending on the needs of the person. Advocates can:

* Listen to the views and concerns of the person
* Help to explain the options available to the person
* Provide information to help the person make informed decisions about their care
* Attend meetings with the person or on the person’s behalf
* Make sure the person’s feelings are expressed and taken into account
* Provide independent advice and support,

Advocates can visit people in their own homes, or in the places where they are cared for. They provide an independent support to the person, checking that all care plans are adhered to and that the person is receiving good quality care and that their needs are being met and rights are upheld.

**Short Description**

The purpose of this notice is to invite experienced organisations who deliver this type of provision to participate in a scoping exercise with Blackpool Council to help design a delivery model aimed at supporting both adults and children who require advocacy services.

This exercise is in response to the requirements of legislation, set out in the Mental Health Act 1983, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Care Act and others, for local authorities to provide independent advocacy support to the following people, if they do not have close friends / family to advocate on their behalf:

* People who are receiving Social Care and who have a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in place
* People who are detained under the Mental Health Act
* People who lack the capacity to make decisions about their own care
* Children who are looked after or who have a social worker
* People receiving social care in their own homes
* People who are in the process of complaining about health service they have received

Blackpool Council wishes to enter into a dialogue with organisations that have a proven track record of supporting vulnerable children and adults to express their views and feelings about the care that they receive and to ensure that their rights are upheld.

The main purpose of this notice is to help the Council understand the market position with regards to advocacy services available in the local area.

**Information Required**

The Council will select a number of organisations from those applying to participate in this exercise. If your organisation is selected to participate you will be asked to respond to a small number of questions related to the delivery of a range of advocacy services.

Interested parties are asked to respond **via The Chest** no later than **12 noon on Friday 8th October 2021.**

As part of you expression of interest please include:-

* Examples of comparable services delivered by your organisation
* Evidence of any evaluation/quality checks of provision
* A model which outlines how the support and / or provision described above could be delivered including staffing arrangements and anticipated costs
* **Full name and contact details of whom to make contact following the PIN if required.**

Please note:

* This exercise is for **information only**.
* Blackpool Council **cannot** guarantee that all organisations who express an interest are selected to engage in exploratory dialogue.
* The Council **may** select a small number of organisations from those applying to participate in this exercise, depending on the volume of applications, however, any organisation who participates (or non-participates) in this consultation will **neither be advantaged nor disadvantaged** should the Council decide to embark on a future procurement process.