

# Advocacy



Making sure that children, young people and adults with a learning disability are able to access effective, independent advocacy that helps improve their lives

# 1

## Ensure that people with a learning disability who are detained in inpatient units have access to skilled advocates

The NHS-commissioned [Review of Advocacy](#), published in 2023, highlighted that access to skilled, independent advocacy for people in inpatient units is inconsistent and in many cases unavailable.

Among the issues highlighted were that children and young people were in many cases not covered by the advocacy contracts that local authorities had purchased, and that local authorities were unclear on their responsibilities in this area.

### **The Government needs to:**

**Respond to the recommendations of the Review of Advocacy, and set out an action plan for what actions they intend to take on these**

### **The Department of Health and Social Care needs to:**

**Write to all a) ICBs and b) local authorities and ask them to clarify their funding arrangements for advocacy – they must ensure that advocacy is commissioned for children and young people as well as adults**

**Engage with the Department for Education on the proposed new standard for non-instructed advocacy that is currently being developed, and promote this**

# Introduce a national advocacy strategy and task force to plan and action required changes

## 2

The issues highlighted in the Review of Advocacy show that there are serious issues with advocacy for children, young people and adults in inpatient settings, but people with a learning disability and families have raised that advocacy in other areas is also frequently inadequate.

This occurs throughout different parts of the system – education, health, social care, housing – and requires a cross-governmental solution.

“

*We recommend: A national advocacy strategy is developed to oversee and support delivery of the much-needed changes identified within this report.*

*Reviewers believe there should be a multi-agency task force, which includes family members and people with a learning disability and autistic people to oversee development of such a strategy and to monitor its implementation.*

[A Review of Advocacy](#)

### **The Government needs to:**

**Introduce a multi-agency taskforce, including people with a learning disability, autistic people and family carers, to oversee the development of a national advocacy strategy and monitor its implementation**