

Seeking Service Users Adult Statutory Advocacy Services in Hammersmith & Fulham

What is advocacy?

This is when an advocate supports an individual who has considerable difficulty expressing their voice or in representing their own interests on key decisions made about their care and support.

By law all Councils in the UK, in this case Hammersmith & Fulham, have to make sure that they have an advocacy service that is completely independent of the Council, NHS and other statutory bodies.

What is the purpose of advocacy?

The purpose of advocacy is to provide voice and not influence for those who need support in navigating and understanding decision making in relation to their health, care, and support. Independent advocates should ensure that the people they are working with rights are upheld and that their wishes and needs are understood.

Advocacy aims to provide a voice to vulnerable people who would not be able to effectively advocate on their own behalf or have no one appropriate e.g. partner, family members to advocate for them.

Why do we want to get your views?

We are at a critical stage in the shaping of our adult advocacy services and want to engage service users to help better understand how to shape and monitor our Advocacy Partnership moving forward.

We want to engage you as we design and shape the new service and work towards establishing a clear set of standards for what 'good looks like' in relation to independent advocacy services.

We intend that this group that will meet two to four times within the first year of implementing our independent advocacy service and hope that it continues to evolve and becomes a user led reference group.

The group is a place for you to give feedback on the statutory advocacy services in the borough and support us to identify what is working well and what can be improved.

What's next?

Please contact Rebecca.Richardson@lbhf.gov.uk if you would like to participate in an initial group meeting to gather feedback. The group will meet for around **two hours** on **Monday 7 October** and **Tuesday 8 October** depending on numbers interested in **Hammersmith**.

Although we cannot pay you for your time, you would be part of a valuable process of shaping and improving a critical service. We want to include as many people as possible so if you can't be involved in the group we will be sending out a survey in order to ensure your voice is heard too.