Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy

Suffolk Advocacy Service

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA)

This service is delivered by the Suffolk Advocacy Service Partnership. This service is free, confidential and independent.

When someone cannot ask for an advocate themselves, because they do not have the capacity to do so due, for example, to brain injury, disability or illness, it does not mean that their views and wishes should not be taken into account.

People over the age of 16 who do not have an appropriate family member or friend to represent their views, may be entitled to an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) if they do not have capacity at the time to make decisions about serious medical treatment, care reviews, safeguarding concerns or a change of accommodation.

Our Independent Mental Capacity Advocates gather information about individuals referred to our service to help decision makers, such as doctors, to reach 'best interest' decisions about elements of their treatment and care.

Doctors, social workers and others involved in 'best interest' decisions can make a referral for IMCA (3rd party referrals).

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Our DoLS advocates protect the human rights of people who have been admitted to hospital, or live in residential care, lack capacity (at the time) and it appears that they are being deprived of their liberty for their own safety.

Our advocates work with them to ensure that their rights under the Mental Capacity Act are upheld and that the deprivation is lawful, proportionate and in their best interests.

The service is available to anyone over 18 who cannot understand or take part in the decisions being made about them and do not have family or friends who are appropriate or willing to help.

Referrals are made through the Local Authority.

How to get in touch

Email - suffolkadvocacyservice@pohwer.net

Telephone - 0300 456 2370 (charged at local rate)

Text - send the word 'pohwer' with your name and number to 81025

Post - Suffolk Advocacy Service PO Box 17943, Birmingham, B9 9PB

Website - www.pohwer.net/suffolk-advocacy-service

Access to information

We provide leaflets and information in a variety of languages and formats including Easy Read, audio and DVDs
We have access to translation and interpreting services
We use communication toolkits, Makaton and other signing techniques

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