

Advocacy for Parents

Parents with a learning disability who fit the criteria for the complex needs team in adult care will automatically be referred to their commission service for advocacy. When Childrens Social Care become involved with the children of these adults, the respective managers of Childrens Social Care and Adults Social Care should agree the requirements of advocacy. When the advocacy arrangements of Adult Social Care come to an end for any reason, no assumption should be made that Childrens Social Care should continue to pay for this service.

Where an assessed need for advocacy has been made for Childrens Social Care, any arrangement to deliver this service must be approved by a Team Manager/Service Manager. Where one team has established such an arrangement, it must not be assumed that the receiving team will continue with this arrangement. Advocacy should form part of the transfer arrangements between teams and any on-going arrangement approved on a case by case basis.

The 'supporting adults in their parenting capacity' protocol is under review and within it is a section regarding advocacy that will inform this protocol.

Where pre proceeding processes are initiated, parents will be entitled to be represented by legal advocates at the pre proceedings meeting. There may be occasions where additional advocacy is required, this may be influenced by the need for an assessment of 'mental capacity' or where the cognitive ability of the parent is borderline but they are unable to access a learning difficulties service. In all circumstances, a Team Manager must agree to the payment of this service in advance of any arrangement being made.

Care leavers can access an advocacy service from Childrens Social Care until the age of 25. This will be available to them if they are also being assessed in regard to their parenting capacity.