

Aberdeen City Council Commissioning and Contracts Team Response

18 July 2013

Consultation on Independent Advocacy – Guide For Commissioners

Q1. Yes

Q2. Yes

Q3. I can't find the section to which they refer.

Q4. Yes but the scenarios are a bit simplistic. I would remove scenarios 4-7 as they are all of service providers who provide advocacy – which runs counter to the guidance!

What about a slightly more complex scenario?

A 60 year-old gentleman with an enduring mental illness lives alone in a council flat. He lives in receives a weekly visit from the housing support service to make sure he is managing his finances but is otherwise independent. The Community Psychiatric Nurse visits every six weeks to administer the depot injection. The gentleman has no relatives but attends a local support group once a month accompanied by his advocate. The advocate has noticed that the gentleman has been 'out of sorts' the last few times he has seen him. The gentleman explained that his medication was changed six months ago and he has felt unwell ever since. His housing support worker has commented on how poorly he looks and the gentleman has spoken to the CPN twice about it but nothing seems to have been done. The advocacy service is specifically for adults with mental health problems (in-patients and out-patients) and receives its core-funding (£150,000 over a three-year period) from NHS X, and has an office in the city centre as a contribution in kind from Council Y.

Q5. No. There is far too much material and most of it has an indirect link to advocacy e.g. "Discover the third sector" is included because it is likely to be a third sector org. that provides the service. The reading list in Appendix 4 seems more relevant.

From the list given I would keep the following:

Having your say? The same as you? The National implementation report of the advocacy sub group (2006)

The Equality Act (2010)

The Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act (2003)

General comments:

Page 20 - para 11.1. This seems to contradict the overall message – i.e. promoting 'psychological independence' and reducing conflict of interest.

Page 33 –'discreet' – I think they mean discrete. In the interests of plain English a phrase such as 'stand alone' may be more appropriate.