



# Find out more, or make a referral

These services are available to adults across Lancashire meeting the criteria.

If you would like some more information about either of these services, or to make a referral, then please contact us via:

Phone: 03450 138208

Fax: 01253 407473

Text: 07535 604542



**n|compass**  
looking towards a brighter future

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Registered Charity Number: 1128809  
Registered in England: 6845210

n-compass offers confidential and secure services.

# Advocacy for people with learning disabilities



We support adults (18+) with complex learning disabilities living in Lancashire to safeguard their rights and ensure their views and wishes are heard when health and social care decisions that affect them are being made. We also support people to get more involved in their local community.

“Helping those with learning disabilities to engage with their surroundings”

**What is it?**  
Citizen Advocacy is based on a long term, one-to-one partnership where a local citizen supports individuals to have their needs and wishes known.  
**A citizen advocate will:**  
• Meet with the advocacy partner and get to know them over time.  
• Make sure their voice is heard.  
• Support them to be more involved with their local community.  
The Citizen Advocacy service is able to work with any adult aged 18 and over across Lancashire, who has a complex learning disability.  
• People who do not use words to communicate.  
• Please who are supported by service, where no family or friends are involved.  
• People who are supported by services who may be at risk.

# Citizen Advocacy

Non-instructed Advocacy aims to support people who are unable to instruct an advocate or say what they want. This is about working with people to ensure they are as involved as possible in decisions that affect them.  
• Work with people in relation to a particular decision, for example, a change of accommodation.  
• Gather as much information as possible by speaking to them and the people around them.  
• Try to ascertain their needs and wishes.  
• Report their findings to the most appropriate person involved in that person's care.  
The Non-instructed Advocacy service is able to work with any adult aged 18 and over across Lancashire, who has a complex learning disability and is:  
• Facing a particular decision relating to health and social care services.  
• Has been assessed as not having capacity in relation to this issue.

# Non-instructed Advocacy

# Learning Disability Advocacy

There are 2 types of advocate that we provide. **Citizen and Non-instructed.**

**Citizen Advocacy** is based on a long term, one-to-one partnership where a local citizen usually volunteers.

**We will:**

- ☞ Meet with the advocacy partner and get to know them over time.
- ☞ Make Sure their voice is heard.
- ☞ Support them to be more involved with their local community.

**Non-Instructed Advocacy** is about working with people who are unable to instruct an advocate or say what they want, to ensure they are as involved as possible in decisions that affect the.

**We:**

- ☞ Work with people in relation to a particular decision, for example, a change in accommodation.
- ☞ Gather as much information as possible by speaking to them and the people around them.
- ☞ Try to ascertain their needs and wishes.
- ☞ Report our findings to the most appropriate person involved in that persons care.

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Both are able to **work with any adult aged 18** and over across Lancashire, who has a **complex learning disability**, such as:

- ☞ People who do not use words to communicate.
- ☞ People who are supported by services, where no family or friends are involved.
- ☞ People who are supported by services who may be at risk

## Case study:

### 1. Advocacy Issue

Sarah lives in her family home, but her main family carer has recently passed away. A decision needs to be made regarding where is best for her to live in the future.

### 2. Action

The Advocate meets with Sarah and those who know her well including family and paid staff. The Advocate poses questions to the Social Worker, ensuring her best interests are kept at the centre of the decision making process.

The Advocate writes a report for the Social Worker about the work they have done.

### 3. Outcome:

Sarah continued to live at the family home, with a package of support to meet her needs. She remained as independent as possible, still living in the environment she knew best.

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