

ADVOCACY

Definition of advocacy:

Appendix 1 Definition of the SEND IASS Advocacy Offer Advocacy

means getting support from another person to help an individual to express their views and wishes and help them understand and exercise their rights. IASS do not fulfil the role of statutory advocates - more info here –

[What is an advocate? | Mental health support | Mind](#)

nor do they provide legal advocacy as provided by a lawyer.

More information on what we mean by advocacy can be found on the MIND website and in the extract below:

[Advocacy and mental health | Support and services | Mind](#)

An informal advocate can:

- listen to the individuals views and concerns
- help them to explore their options and rights
- provide information to help them make informed decisions
- help them contact relevant people
- accompany them and support them in meetings or appointments

An informal advocate will not:

- give their personal opinion
- solve problems and make decisions for the individual
- make judgements about them

The support of an advocate is often particularly useful in meetings when an individual might not feel confident in expressing themselves. They can:

- support them to ask all the questions they want to ask
- make sure all the points they want covered are included in the meeting
- explain their options without giving their opinion
- help keep them safe during the meeting – for example, if the individual finds the meeting upsetting, the informal advocate can ask for a break until the individual feels able to continue.

Taken from the service level agreement template IASSN