

## Supporting Parents involved in Child Protection Cases

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The role of the advocate in these cases is to empower the parent to self-advocate by encouraging and supporting the parent to take on practical tasks.

The level of support offered to the parent will vary on a case-by-case basis depending on the parent's needs.

The advocate will agree time limited support which will include supporting the parent to prepare for, and will attend relevant Child Protection meetings.

### **Eligibility:**

1. Person has a "substantial difficulty" in any of the following tasks:
  - understanding relevant information
  - retaining information
  - using or weighing up the information (as part of being involved in the key process)
  - communicating their views, wishes and feelings

This could be due to a range of diagnoses, e.g., a learning disability or difficulty, dementia, autism, a sensory impairment.

2. The person is aged 18 years or older, or the person is aged 16 or 17 and likely to have a continuing need for the service beyond the age of 18.
3. The person is resident in Camden or Islington.

### **Role of the Advocate:**

After initial referral if the advocate is unable to contact the parent or there is no engagement a letter will be sent to them informing them the case has been closed.

The advocate will meet with parent(s) complete initial paperwork (Client Journey and Welcome Pack)

The advocate will give a copy of Rethink's self-advocacy tool kit to the parent and offer them the opportunity attend a course or workshop to develop their self-advocacy skills.

Advocacy is instructed and must be parent led

The advocate will discuss boundaries of role and complete an Advocacy Plan agreeing what the parent can and will do and what the advocate will do.

The advocate will not attend parenting assessments.

At the first meeting the advocate will agree what, if any, meetings they can and cannot attend. An advocate would not normally attend core group meetings.

If it is agreed that an advocate is required to attend one or two core group meetings it must be with the intention of supporting the parent to work towards self-advocacy which needs be agreed as part of the Advocacy Plan.

If parent does not show up for any meeting we will not attend in their place.

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Advocates will support parents to prepare for meetings by:

- looking through reports and highlighting things they want to question or challenge
- writing down questions the parent wants to ask or points they want to raise
- agreeing the role the advocate will take at the meeting e.g. encouraging parent to speak for themselves from the prepared notes
- reassuring the parent that they are there to support them and if they do not feel confident to make a point or say something the advocate will do so on their instruction.
- encouraging the parent to make their own notes as the meeting progresses rather than interrupting.

After the meeting, the advocate will review the Advocacy Plan with the parent to agree what, if any other actions the parent and or the advocate need to take.