

## About Us

The Devon Advocacy Consortium is made up of 9 organisations led by Living Options Devon (registered charity number 1102489). The Consortium partners include:

- Age UK Devon
- Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council
- Devon Link-Up
- Vocal Advocacy
- Haven Advocacy
- Rethink Mental Illness
- SEAP Advocacy (Support, Empower, Advocate, Promote)
- Young Devon
- Westbank



## Contact Us

Devon Advocacy Consortium

To make a referral

Phone: **0300 343 5707\***

Text: **0784 120 4398**

Email: **dac@seap.org.uk**

Web: **www.devonadvocacy.org.uk**

Write: **DAC, C/O Living Options Devon, Ground Floor Units 3-4 Cranmere Court, Lustleigh Close, Matford Business Park, Exeter, EX2 8PW**

Opening Times: Weekdays 9am-5pm  
(extended hours until 7pm on Thursdays)

**IMCA direct: 0845 231 1900\***

**IMCA email: imca.devon@nhs.net**

(for professionals only)

\*Calls are charged at a local rate. Calls from mobiles may be higher.

This leaflet is available in alternative formats by contacting:

Email: **info@livingoptions.org**

Phone: **01392 459222**

Web: **www.livingoptions.org**



Charity number:  
1102489



# Devon Advocacy Consortium

An independent, professional advocacy service for people over the age of 16 in Devon and Torbay



**Devon Advocacy Consortium**

**Phone: 0300 343 5707**

**Text : 0784 120 4398**

**IMCA Direct Number:**

**0845 231 1900 (for professionals)**



## What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and to get the services they need. If an advocate can't help they can find someone who will.



## Care Act Advocacy

Local authorities must instruct an advocate for people in Devon or Torbay who have substantial difficulty in being involved in care and support processes and have no one appropriate to facilitate their involvement. The person could be undergoing:

- A needs assessment
- A carers assessment
- The preparation of a care and support plan or support plan
- A review of care and support plan or support plan
- A young carer's assessment
- Safeguarding enquiry or safeguarding adult review

## General and Health Complaints Advocacy

An issue-based advocacy service for those within Devon County Council area and seeking advocacy in relation to their health and social care needs including support with a complaint related to local authority or NHS funded health and social care services.



## Independent Mental Health Advocacy

The service helps people, in Devon and Torbay, understand their rights in relation to the Mental Health Act (MHA) and to make informed decisions.

Eligible individuals include those:

- Detained in hospital under the MHA, apart from shorter sections (4, 5, 135 or 136) designed to allow a proper MHA assessment to take place
- Subject to a Guardianship Order or Community Treatment Order
- Discussing with their doctor the possibility of Psychosurgery, or Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) (if under 18 years)

## Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy

The service provides an independent safeguard to support vulnerable people in Devon and Torbay who lack capacity to make certain decisions and have no appropriate person to consult with about those decisions.

Local Authorities and NHS bodies have to instruct and consult an IMCA when making a decision for a person who lacks capacity regarding the following decisions:

- Serious Medical Treatment
- When the Local Authority is proposing to arrange accommodation for someone for longer than 8 weeks
- When the NHS body is proposing to arrange accommodation for someone for longer than 28 days

Local Authorities may instruct an IMCA in cases of:

- Care Reviews (where accommodation is being reviewed)
- Adult Safeguarding (for individuals with or without friends & family)