Training and Support in Advocacy

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Discussion around the term "Advocacy"

Principles of Advocacy
- Good listener
- Empowerment
- Independent
- Autonomy
- The voice of the person
- Support
- Articulation

Autonomy: To empower someone, the right to self determine, be clear with boundaries
Independence: Conflict of interest, no personal agenda, no repercussions for the advocate doing advocacy work, no discrimination

Types of Advocacy:
There are at least 14 types of Advocacy including Self, Legal and one-to-one
Many roles to play
High participation by group members on these types of advocacy

Training and Support in Advocacy

- How to start training and support
- Delivery of training and support
- Sustainability in training and support
- Motivation
- High standards
- Responsibility to persons needs wishes and preferences

Person in Advocacy Role:
Benefits

- Better understanding
- Knowledge
- Confidence
- Understanding of organisations you are dealing with
- Data protection
- Better understanding of the role of an advocate
- Boundaries
- Training around contexts
- Formal recognition of the advocates (if not a professional)
- Self Care and assessment
- Capacity

Person in Advocacy Role:
Challenges

- Time
- Accessibility of training
- Cost
- Recognition and need of advocacy
- Acceptance of advocacy role
- Dealing with Managers who manage your work
- Suspicion
- Staff in organisation should understand role of advocacy
- Information sessions for colleagues
- Promoting the service
- Cultural context (for example, family)

Support and Supervision

- Avoid burnout
- Updating
- Mutual support
- Sharing experiences of advocacy, hospital and Nursing Home
- **Challenges (Training/Support):**
- Not enough Advocates
- Access
- Recording experiences – template? Confidentiality?
- Supporting advocacy role from other roles

Concluding remarks

- Roles and Training
- Where?
- Ongoing?
- Refresher training?
- Training around communication and language difficulties
- Basics for people thrust into the role