

# Equality Impact Assessment

## Name of project/proposal

Advocacy

Contact name

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Department

Adult Services

Date to be published on Hantsweb

20 Jan 2015

## Purpose for project/proposal

To tender for statutory advocacy as determined by the Care Act 2014.

To extend the contract for mental health advocacy, IMHA, IMCA and Paid Representative to the same end date as the Care Act

To commission future statutory and non-statutory advocacy service from April 2016.

## Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out?

Yes

A workshop with advocacy and advocacy-type support providers on 23.9.2014 to consider new requirements of the Local Authority in relation to the Care Act Advocacy and future delivery model.

Communication with staff who will have to identify people who are eligible for Care Act advocacy commenced in November through meeting and emails. A survey will be undertaken by all operational staff between 5-23 January 2015.

## Statutory considerations

### Impact

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Age                            | High |
| Disability                     | High |
| Sexual orientation             | None |
| Race                           | None |
| Religion and belief            | None |
| Gender reassignment            | None |
| Sex                            | None |
| Marriage and civil partnership | None |
| Pregnancy and maternity        | None |

### Other policy considerations

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Poverty                  | Medium |
| Rurality                 | Medium |
| Other factors            | None   |
| If other please describe |        |

Geographical impact

Have you identified any medium or high impact?\*

All Hampshire

Yes

No

## Equality statement

From 1 April 2015 there will be a statutory duty for staff to identify service users and carers who have substantial difficulty in being involved in any of the following local authority processes unless they have another person who is appropriate and available to support them:

- accessing information and advice
- assessment
- care planning
- review of care plans
- safeguarding

This could apply to any adult and older person, any carer, young people in transition from Children's Services to Adult Services and young carers (advocacy for young carers is being dealt with under separate contracting arrangements in Children's Services).

This will extend the provision of advocacy to older people and those with a physical disability who currently do not have access to any advocacy.

In order to be able to support people to express their wishes and feelings or represent their views, advocates will need to spend time with them and build up an understanding. This is very likely to take place in people's homes so will benefit those who live in rural areas and who have difficulty travelling.

It will support those at greatest need who have difficulty in understanding information, retaining that information, using and weighing that information and in expressing their wishes and feelings.

It will be provided free of charge and regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race or marital status providing a person meets the statutory eligibility.

Eligibility is determined by legislation which will have a positive impact , ensuring a service where none had previously existed.

Date to review actions

01 Sep 2015

## **Final decision date**

Final decision date due  
Decision to be made by

27 Jan 2015  
Executive Member