Guidance Notes for Advocacy for Informal Patients Referrals

Advocacy for Informal Patients, is available for people residing voluntarily in Hollins Park Hospital. It is a service for patients who are not eligible for statutory advocacy services, such as (IMHA), but who would benefit from advocacy support.

Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need. Advocates work in partnership with the people they support and take their side.

Advocacy is free, confidential and independent. In all our advocacy activity our aim is to strengthen the voice of the person facing discrimination, disadvantage and social isolation. Where possible we will always promote self-advocacy.

Advocacy **is not** giving advice, offering a befriending or mediation service, providing emotional support or filling a gap in service provision.

Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice.

Making a referral

Referrals can be made by professionals with the consent of the person needing advocacy support by using the Advocacy for Informal Patients referral form. In addition, individuals may self- refer to the service.

**** Please provide as much detail as possible on the referral form that will inform our allocation process and advocacy work undertaken. For example, this may include significant meeting dates, information on any access needs or communication approaches and relevant religious, cultural or gender factors.**

If you are uncertain as to whether a person is entitled to an advocate please contact the duty advocate on 01925 246 888 to discuss further.

Referrals should be completed and sent via email (password protected) to referral@advocacyhub.org.uk