

Our service empower individuals to make informed decisions, advocate for themselves, and obtain the necessary support to achieve their goals.



Deborah David - Community Advocate

The community advocacy service is funded to provide advocacy to adults who are 18 or over living in the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and meets one or more of the following criteria:

- people with learning disabilities and/or autism
- people with mental health problems
- people with a brain injury
- people with physical disabilities
- people with sensory impairments (sight and hearing problems)
- older people and people with dementia
- people with a long-term illness
- People with profound and multiple disabilities or complex health needs.

This service is very helpful for people who need support to deal with an issue they are facing.

For example they:

- Are finding it difficult to put their views across or don't feel they are being listened to
- Are in a situation where they feel vulnerable or that they could be at risk of abuse
- Need help to access services relating to their health, lifestyle, or independence
- Are struggling with an issue and feel they would benefit from some support



How to make a referral

Go online and make a referral via our online form: www.hfmencap.org

You can make a referral by contacting our advocate:

Deborah.David@hfmencap.org
07496418892
Community advocate



If you have questions about eligibility or referral types, contact Deborah.

What the Community Advocate does:

- Deliver Community Advocacy or non-statutory advocacy for adults who need advocacy but do not meet the threshold for statutory advocacy.
- Provide information and advice relating to the care and support for adults and support of carers.
- Empower service users in order to effectively express their wishes and choices around their own health and wellbeing.
- Ensure service user's rights are upheld and supported.
- Support service users to understand their rights and expectations in relation to health and social care.
- Support service users to build resilience and independence to live their life in the way that they want to.
- Work towards a co-produced plan of action with service users to support independent living.



An advocate **CAN** support someone to:

- understand their rights
- understand any processes and decisions they are subject to
- understand their options
- communicate their views, wishes and feelings
- make their own choices challenge a decision



An advocate **DOES NOT**:

- offer legal advice
- offer counselling or befriending
- tell people they support what decisions to make
- tell health or social care professionals what decisions to make

Even when someone can't tell their advocate their views, our advocates will use a range of communication methods to establish their views and wishes as far as possible to secure their rights.



How do I get support from a advocate?

- You can be referred to us by a health or care service professional.
- In some cases, a carer or family member can also make a referral.
- or you can contact us yourself.