



Safeguarding

How an advocate can support you



If the council think someone has hurt you, they may want to find out what happened. They will also want to know how they can make sure you are safe.



This is sometimes called 'Safeguarding'.



They may want to talk to you if you have been hurt by accident or on purpose.

This information sheet



This information will help you understand the safeguarding process. And how an independent advocate can help you with it.



The council will try speak to you before they do anything. But if someone else is being hurt they may have to do something without speaking to you.



You can have an advocate if you:



- Find it hard to talk to the council about these things.



- Are not happy about what is happening.



- Do not understand what is happening.



- Do not have any friends or family that you want to support you.



Advocates are independent. This means they do not work for the council or any other care provider.



When the council speaks to you, you can ask questions about what has happened.



You can also ask to see any information about you. And information about what has happened.



The council will ask you:



- If you want them to look into what has happened



- what you want to happen now



- what you need to be safe.



You may decide that you don't want what has happened to be looked into. Or that you don't want a plan to keep you safe. The council may still have to look into it if:



1. Other people may be hurt

or



2. The council think you are in danger but that you don't understand.



The council will ask you about who you want to know about what has happened.



Please tell the council if you do not feel safe.



How having an independent advocate can help



Having an advocate will mean that you will have support to understand what is happening and why it is happening.



It will also mean that there is someone to make sure your views are listened to.



What an independent advocate will do



- Ask you what support you want.



- Help you to understand why people are worried about you.



- Help you to understand good and bad things about any plans



- Support you to understand what is happening. And what might happen next.



Find out what you would like to happen.



- Find out if you are happy for the council to look into what has happened.



- Make sure that if you have questions or worries that the council knows about them.



- Support you to get ready for any meetings.



- Go to meetings with you if you want them to.



If you have any questions about advocacy or safeguarding, please call us on 0300 222 5948 or email us at careadvocacy@voiceability.org