

Our West Wales Adult Advocacy Strategy

2023 – 2027

Easy Read Version

What is a strategy?




A strategy is what needs to be done.

And how to make it happen.



What is advocacy?

Advocacy means getting support from another person to help you say your needs and wishes and stand up for your rights.

	<p>Lots of laws say that advocacy is important.</p>
	<p>Like the Social Services and Wellbeing Act in Wales.</p>
	<p>And the Area Plan for West Wales.</p>

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act says people should be able to say:

- **My voice is heard and listened to.**
- **My individual circumstances are considered.**
- **I speak for myself and contribute to the decisions that affect my life, or have someone who can do it for me.**

There are lots of different sorts of advocacy.



	<p>Self-advocacy is people speaking up for themselves.</p>
	<p>Informal advocacy is when friends or family support you.</p>
	<p>Peer advocacy is support from someone who has gone through the same things as you.</p>

	<p>Citizen advocacy is working with a trained volunteer advocate.</p>
	<p>Formal advocacy means when social workers or staff speak up for people as part of their job.</p>
	<p>Other sorts of advocacy are often for groups like disability or older people.</p>
	<p>Independent Professional advocacy is a trained advocate working 1:1 on an issue.</p>
	<p>Independent Mental Health advocacy is to help people get their voices heard about their mental health treatment.</p>
	<p>Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy helps people who lack capacity get their wishes heard.</p>

	<p>What has been happening?</p>
	<p>Lots of people have been talking about advocacy in West Wales.</p>
	<p>And how to make sure it is good.</p>



	<p>There has been lots of engagement.</p>
	<p>This means talking to people who use advocacy.</p>
	<p>Or who might need it.</p>
	<p>And advocates.</p>
	<p>And people who work in social care.</p>
	<p>Here is what they said good advocacy is:</p>

**Challenges
inequality**

**Supports people to
have their voice heard
or be independent**

Promotes self-advocacy

**Led by the person and
respectful**

Has enough time

Is confidential

**Is flexible – can work
with changes**



Is well funded

**People know
about what's
available**


What advocacy is funded now?







Service	Area	Commissioner	Provided by
Independent Mental Health Advocacy	Carmarthenshire Ceredigion Pembrokeshire	Hywel Dda University Health Board	Advocacy West Wales
Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy	Carmarthenshire Ceredigion Pembrokeshire	Hywel Dda University Health Board	Mental Health Matters
Independent Professional Advocacy	Carmarthenshire Ceredigion Pembrokeshire	Regionally Commissioned by all 3 Local Authorities	3CIPA
Non-Statutory Advocacy	Carmarthenshire Ceredigion Pembrokeshire	N/A	Advocacy West Wales

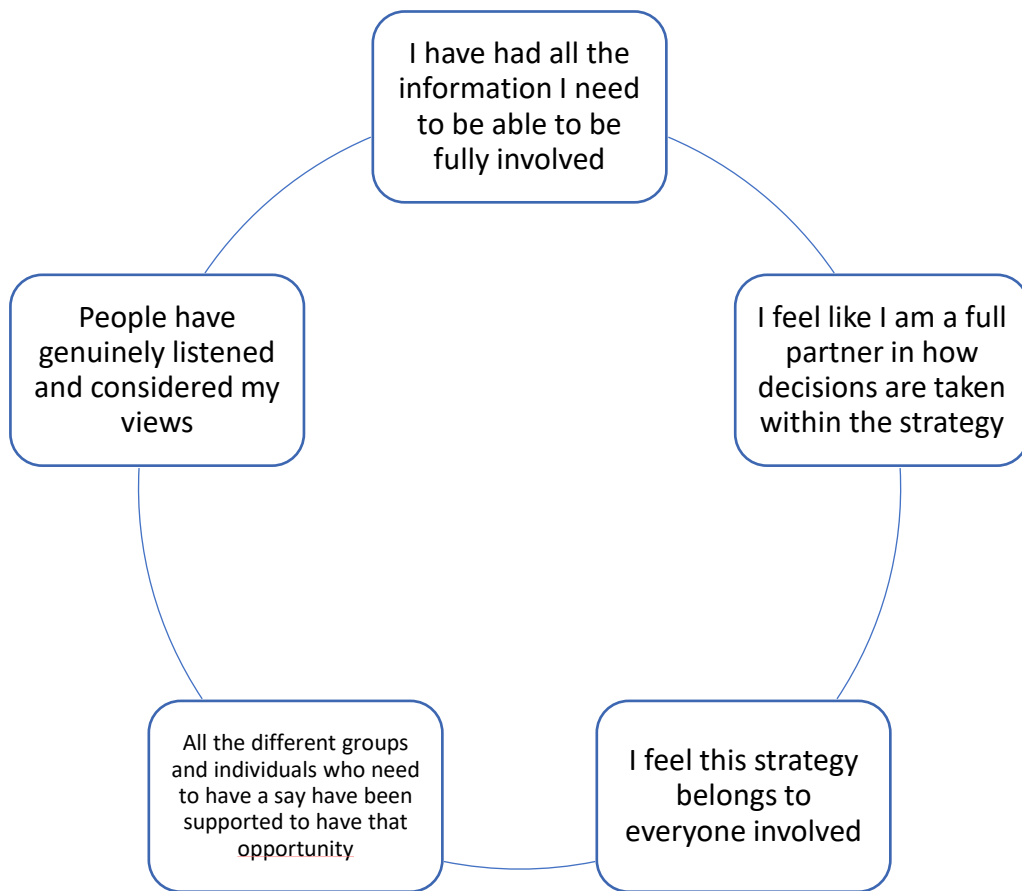
Plus there are specialist services like People First and Age Cymru.



	What's next?
	<p>There are 5 main things in the strategy. These are called priorities.</p>
	<p>Priority 1 Keep working together – and do more of it.</p>

	<p>Priority 2 Help people know more about advocacy.</p>
	<p>Priority 3. Make sure advocacy is easy and fair to get.</p>
	<p>Priority 4. Make sure advocacy is high quality.</p>
	<p>Priority 5. Keep specialist and different sorts of advocacy going.</p>
<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>We will look at these 1 at a time.</p>

	<p>Priority 1 Keep working together – and do more of it.</p>
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	We will:
	Find ways to make sure everyone involved has a say
	And are listened to.
	Look at ways to make the councils and health board work closer.
	Learn more about working together and use what we learn.
	Make sure everyone does the work needed.
	If Priority 1 works, people using advocacy will say:



	<p>Priority 2 Help people know more about advocacy.</p>
	<p>We will:</p>
	<p>Work out a way to make sure more people know about advocacy.</p>



Look at different ways to do this, like online.

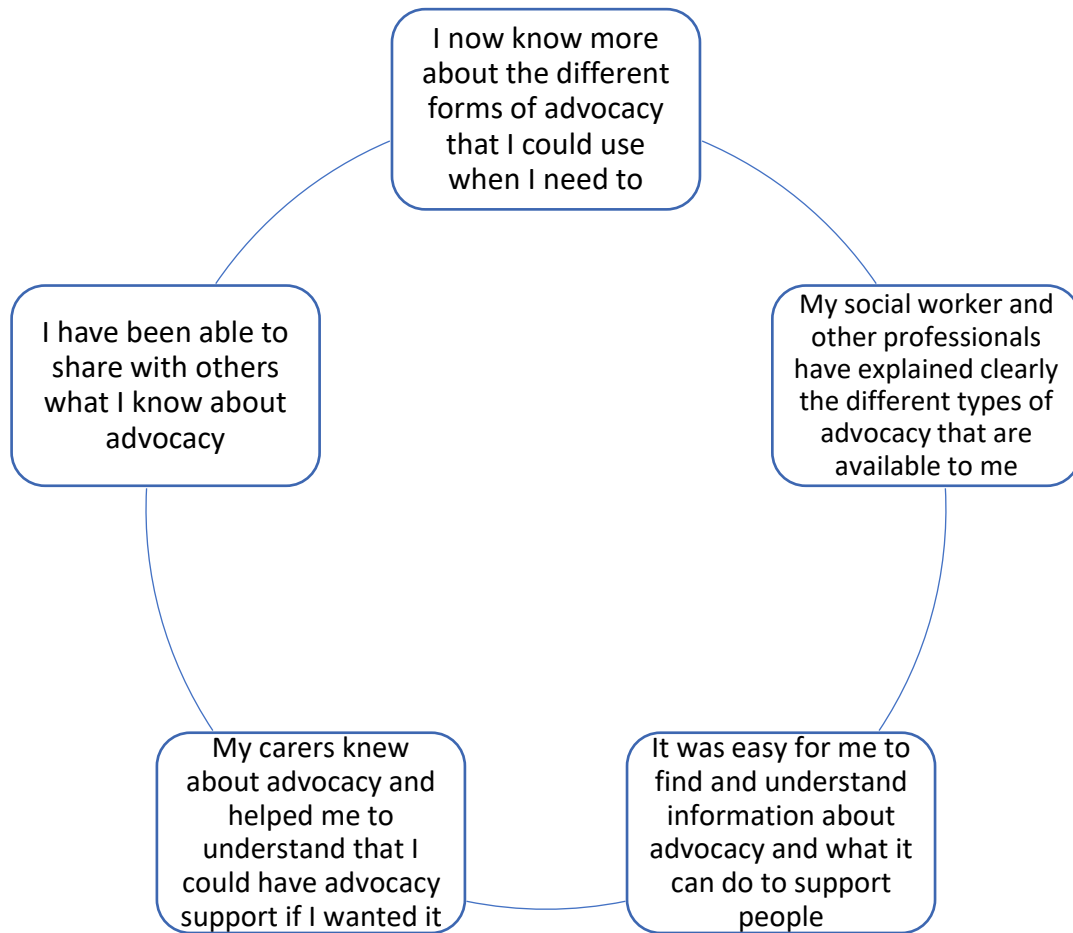


Make sure services give information in easy read and other accessible ways.



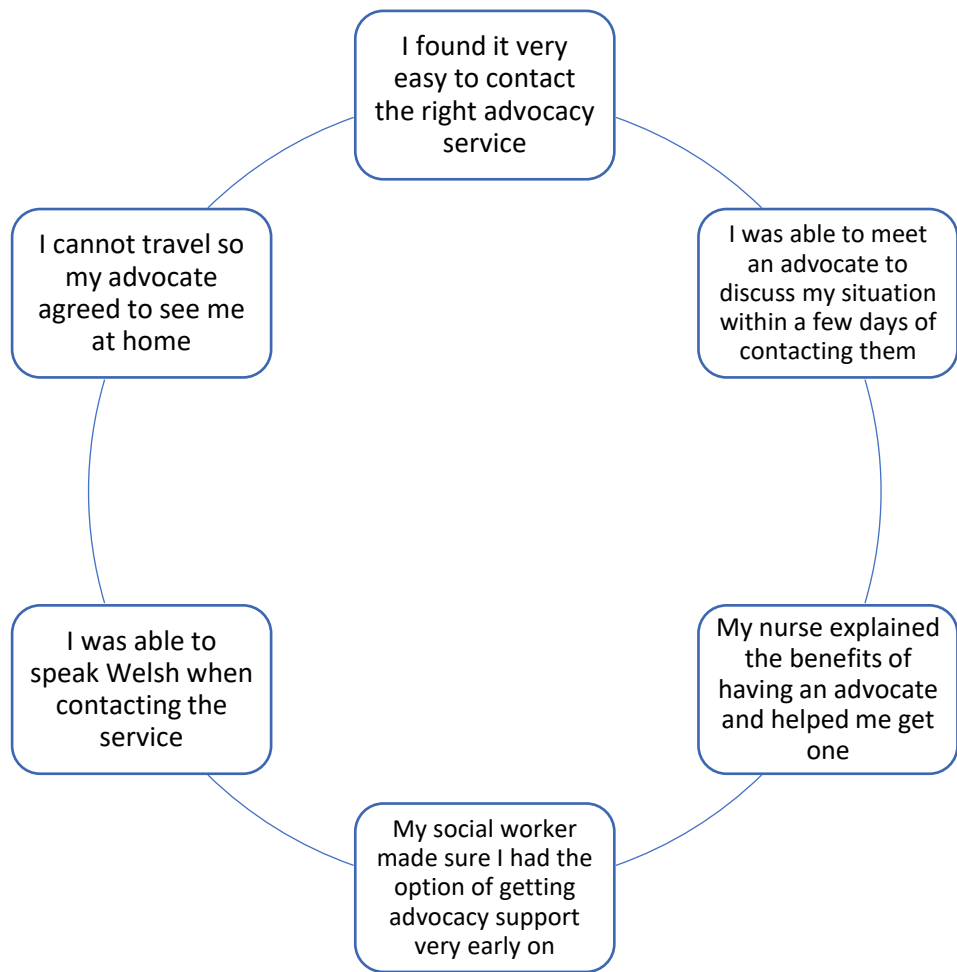
Make links between advocacy and organisations offering Information, Advice and Assistance.





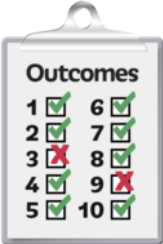
If **Priority 2** works, people using advocacy will say:



	<p>Priority 3. Make sure advocacy is easy and fair to get.</p>
	<p>We will:</p>
	<p>Make sure people who need advocacy most can get it in a way that works for them, like in Welsh, face-to-face, online etc.</p>
	<p>Work with social workers and other staff to make sure they offer advocacy, and do it in a way that lets them explain what advocacy is.</p>
	<p>Make sure people can get advocacy wherever they live.</p>
	<p>Look at the best ways to refer people to make sure it's easy to get advocacy.</p>

If **Priority 3** works, people using advocacy will say:



	<p>Priority 4. Make sure advocacy is high quality</p> <p>We will:</p>																						
	<p>Commission advocacy services that can show that they are well run and well trained.</p>																						
	<p>Make sure the commissioning agreements include ways to check quality.</p>																						
	<p>Help advocacy services learn and improve.</p>																						
 <table border="1" data-bbox="400 1424 563 1666"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Outcomes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Outcomes		1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Make sure different services show their outcomes in the same way.</p>
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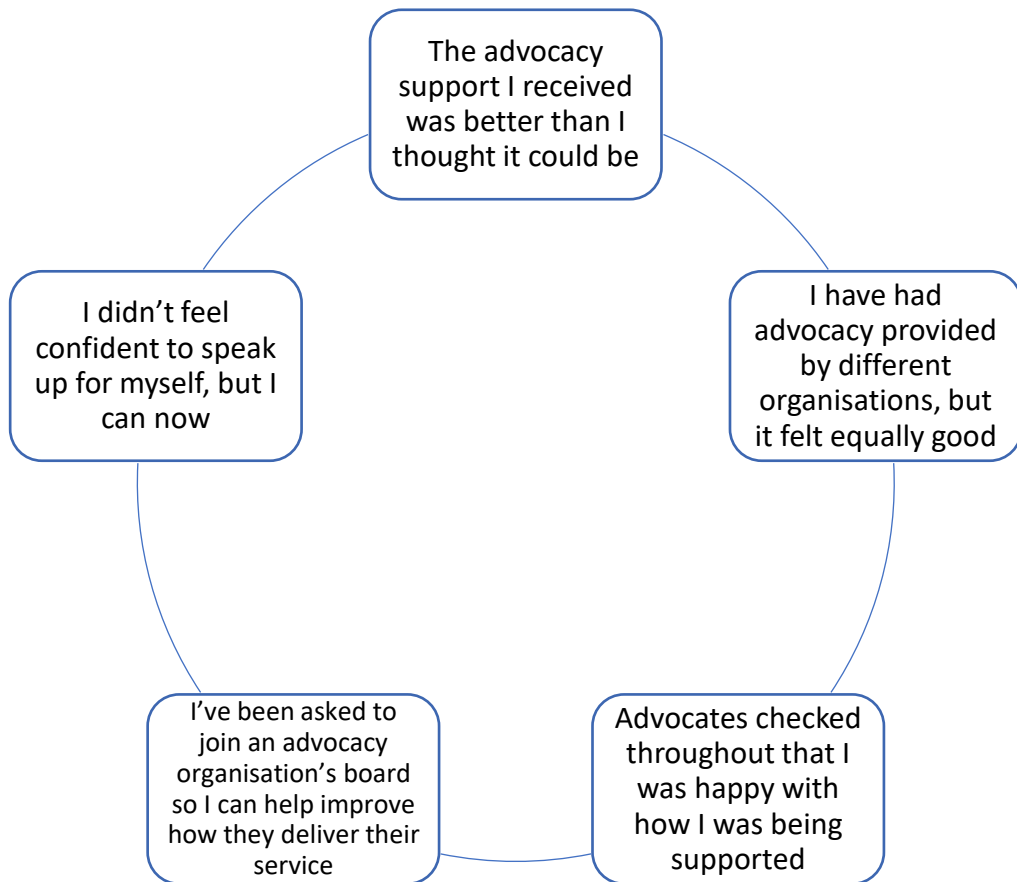
What is commissioning?

Commissioning means councils or the health board choose another organisation to provide advocacy and pay them.

What are outcomes?

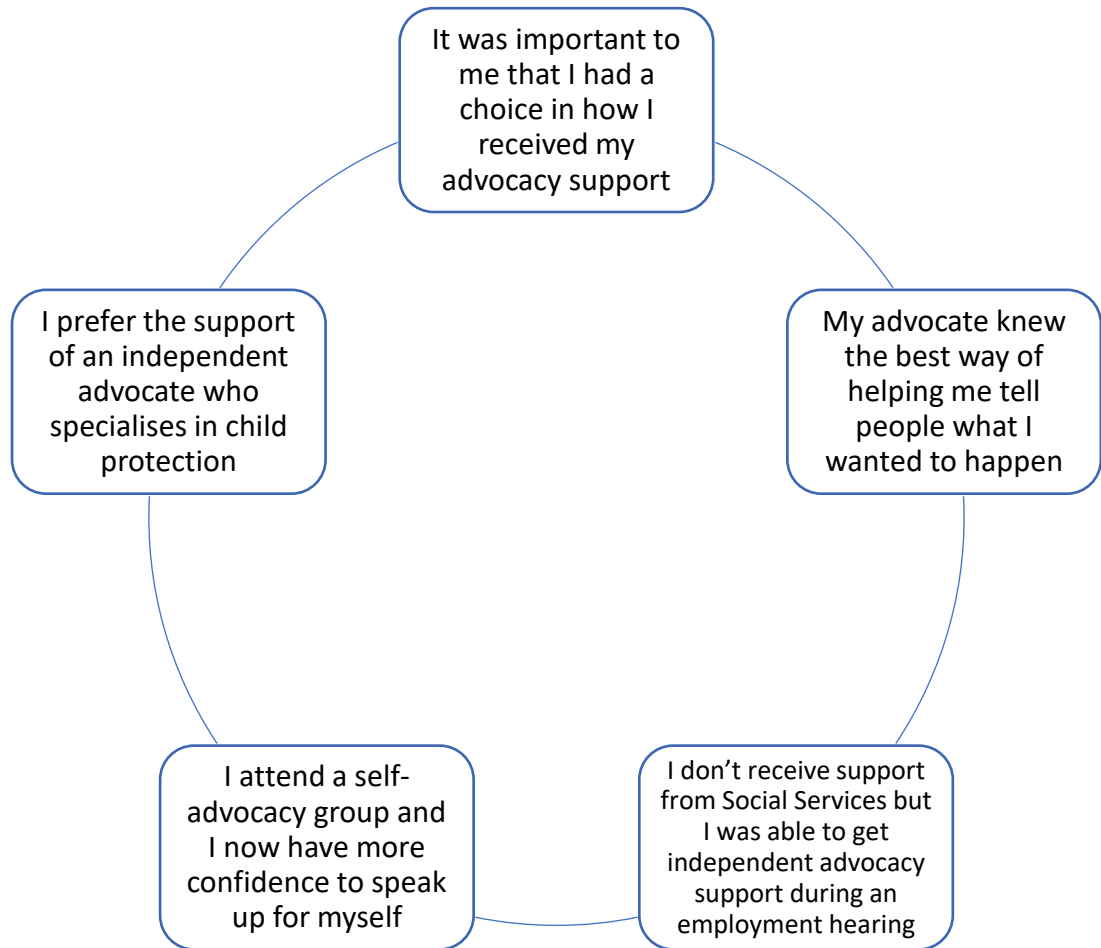
Ways to show what an advocacy service has done – like numbers of people helped, or if people are happy with results.

If **Priority 4** works, people using advocacy will say



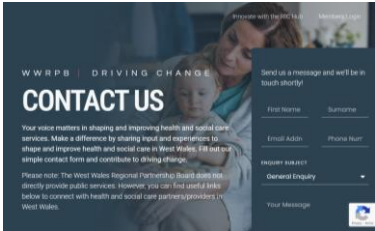


	<p>Priority 5. Keep specialist and different sorts of advocacy going We will:</p>
	<p>Make sure there is a good mix of different types of advocacy, for people with different needs.</p>
	<p>Make sure that people know about the best service for them.</p>
	<p>Make sure people who need most help with communication get a good service.</p>
	<p>Develop and support self-advocacy groups.</p>
	<p>Look at the need for a specialist independent advocacy service to support parents involved in child protection who need help understanding key information.</p>

If **Priority 5** works, people using advocacy will say:



	<p>How the strategy will be checked.</p>
	<p>A new Regional Advocacy Group will be set up.</p>
	<p>They will check on things getting done.</p>
	<p>And report to the Regional Partnership Board.</p>
	<p>There are different groups they will report to:</p>

	<p>Questions?</p>
	<p>Contact the partnership board here</p>
	<p>https://wwrpb.org.uk/en/contact-us/</p>