

# advocacy

## The Golden Thread Programme

Enabling views, wishes and feelings

**“Advocacy services are fundamental to supporting people to engage actively and participate in the development of their own well-being outcomes”**

Social Services and Well-being Wales Act 2014, Part 10 Code of Practice (Advocacy)

### **Securing rights and entitlements:**

- **My rights are respected**
- **I have a voice and control**
- **I am involved in making decisions that affect my life**
- **My individual circumstances are considered**
- **I can speak for myself or have someone who can do it for me and**
- **I get care through the Welsh language if I need it.**

The Golden Thread Advocacy Programme has been funded by Welsh Government for 3 years to run alongside and support the implementation of Part 10 (Advocacy) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

We started this work on the 1st April 2016 and our key aims are:

- To support the commissioning of independent professional advocacy through a sustainable, strategic approach.
- To improve the availability of advocacy services to adults across Wales
- To improve the well-being of individuals through advocacy and to give them a stronger voice

## This national programme will:

- Support strategic health and social care management/commissioning teams and front line professionals in understanding their responsibilities regarding advocacy under the SSWB Act, recognising the circumstances in which an individual or organisation would benefit from advocacy, in planning well-being outcomes and commissioning appropriate services.
- Support development of sustainable models for advocacy service delivery, placing it at the heart of health and social care work within Local Authorities and Local Health Boards across Wales.
- Strengthen the ability of statutory health and social care providers to discharge their duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty, giving people with protected characteristics (Equality Act) a voice in informing Equality Impact Assessments in the design and delivery of future health and social care services. Integral to this is ensuring parity the Welsh Language in service planning and delivery (as per the "Active Offer" principle set out in "More than just Words").
- Work with new and existing service providers to ensure they are tender ready for statutory advocacy commissioning processes.
- Create a framework for collaboration between statutory bodies and service providers in using resources more efficiently to support well-being outcomes.
- Work with representative groups of potential service users and carers to raise awareness of advocacy in all its forms, in exercising control over their well-being outcomes

- Promote positive approaches to well-being and support improvements to safeguarding by giving people with protected characteristics a stronger voice.

## What will I get from the programme?

At the end of the programme all stakeholders will:

- have a greater understanding and knowledge of the value of advocacy
- be equipped with the communication tools to champion the need for the development of advocacy services and to identify where advocacy may be best prioritised
- be able to apply best practice in advocacy as an integral part of commissioning intentions

## How do I get involved?

The team can be contacted in the following ways:

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