

The **Advocacy Safety Net** was a 6 month **Lottery Funded** project in 2021 for **people with a learning disability, autism or mental health issues** (or other vulnerable adults) to **get the right support**

231

people worked
with

Over **50%**

identified
services and/or
removed barriers

18%

identified as
having a learning
disability

9%

identified as
having autism

19%

identified as
having mental
health issues

Top 5 referrers

1. Self referrals
2. Mental Health & Wellbeing services
3. HCC Adults & Children's Services
4. GPs, Social Prescribers & other health
5. Families & friends



A woman who needed help with her debts was sent forms to fill out and return even though she can't read. The advocate found another charity to help her complete the forms, but they only take self referrals and she couldn't use the phone menu system. The advocate made the call with her and will be there for the first meeting as well.



NO ENTRY

Inflexible services

Are you autistic as you seem to understand the issues I'm facing?



Communication

A patient asked the GP for a cleaner. He used to pay for one using DLA but his PIP application had been turned down as he had asked for a cleaner and take away food instead of explaining how this helped him cope with his mental health issues and autism. After some very short meetings over several weeks the advocate helped him reapply for PIP and the GP provided some really helpful evidence.

I talk to you because you don't withhold your number when you ring me like the social worker does.



Complex issues

A social prescriber referred a couple who were contacting the GP surgery up to 10 times a week, both had separate and very different child custody issues which were causing them anxiety. It was too complicated and specialised for the local services that they would usually refer people to.

I need to know you can work with me long term otherwise there's no point in me even talking to you.

I have so many people to chase up from different services, they never get back to me but they do respond to you.

Advocacy made a difference

**Person centred
'different'
conversations that
are not service led**

**Co-produce an
action plan**



**Part of local
communities**



**Trauma informed
approaches that support
people who are
'ambivalent' about
engaging**



**Extensive
knowledge of
health & social care
systems and
legislation**



Human Rights Act 1998



Contact **Hampshire Advocacy Partnership** on 02380 783715
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<https://www.hampshireadvocacy.org.uk>