



SOMEONE TO SPEAK UP FOR ME

Advocacy Support Cymru



Why do I need
someone to
speak up for me?

If I can't understand what's going on

If I'm not invited or included

If I speak a different language or can't talk at all

I can't speak up for myself

If I don't know what's available or possible

If I'm scared, unwell, upset, angry or overwhelmed

If I can't speak up for myself and I can't tell others what matters to me, how do they know?

If they don't know, how will they
make decisions ?

Advocates are;

- ◉ Independent
- ◉ Non-judgemental
- ◉ Confidential

- ◉ And..Free



Patient Opinion

Every voice matters

I found that my advocate listened to me without judging me and gave me a voice to be able to say what I wanted and needed.

I don't want to go to any meetings without my advocate. She makes me feel safe and always sticks up for me

My advocate was really helpful, I was able to contact her through email, phone or meeting up. She was able to keep me up to date on the process, which ended in a great result .

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING ACT

- ◉ The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act was implemented on 6th April 2016
- ◉ It brings in new duties for Local Authorities and their Partners. It covers adults, children and carers

- People
- Well-being
- Prevention
- Collaboration



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

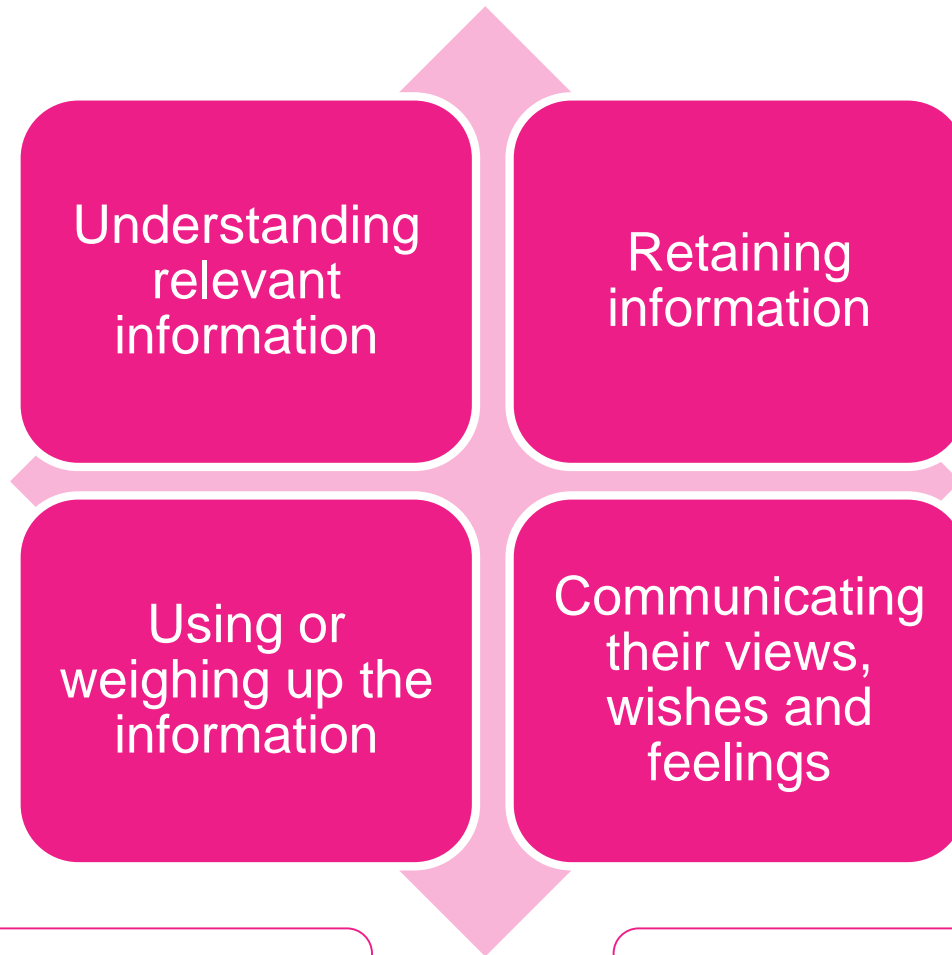


Getting in on the Act

Persons exercising functions under the Act must;

- have regard to the importance of providing support to enable the individual to participate in decisions that affect him or her, to the extent that it is appropriate in the circumstances, particularly where the individual's ability to communicate is limited for any reason.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION



Is there a need for an advocate?

Does the person have capacity?

SUPPORT TO PARTICIPATE

Might this person experience barriers in participating fully?

Yes

Can they be better supported to enable them to overcome barriers?
[Reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010]

Yes

Provide support and make adjustments

Do they still experience barriers in participating fully?

Yes

Is there an 'appropriate individual' – a carer, friend or relative – who can support them to participate fully?

Yes

Agree 'appropriate individual'

No

Duty to arrange for independent professional advocate

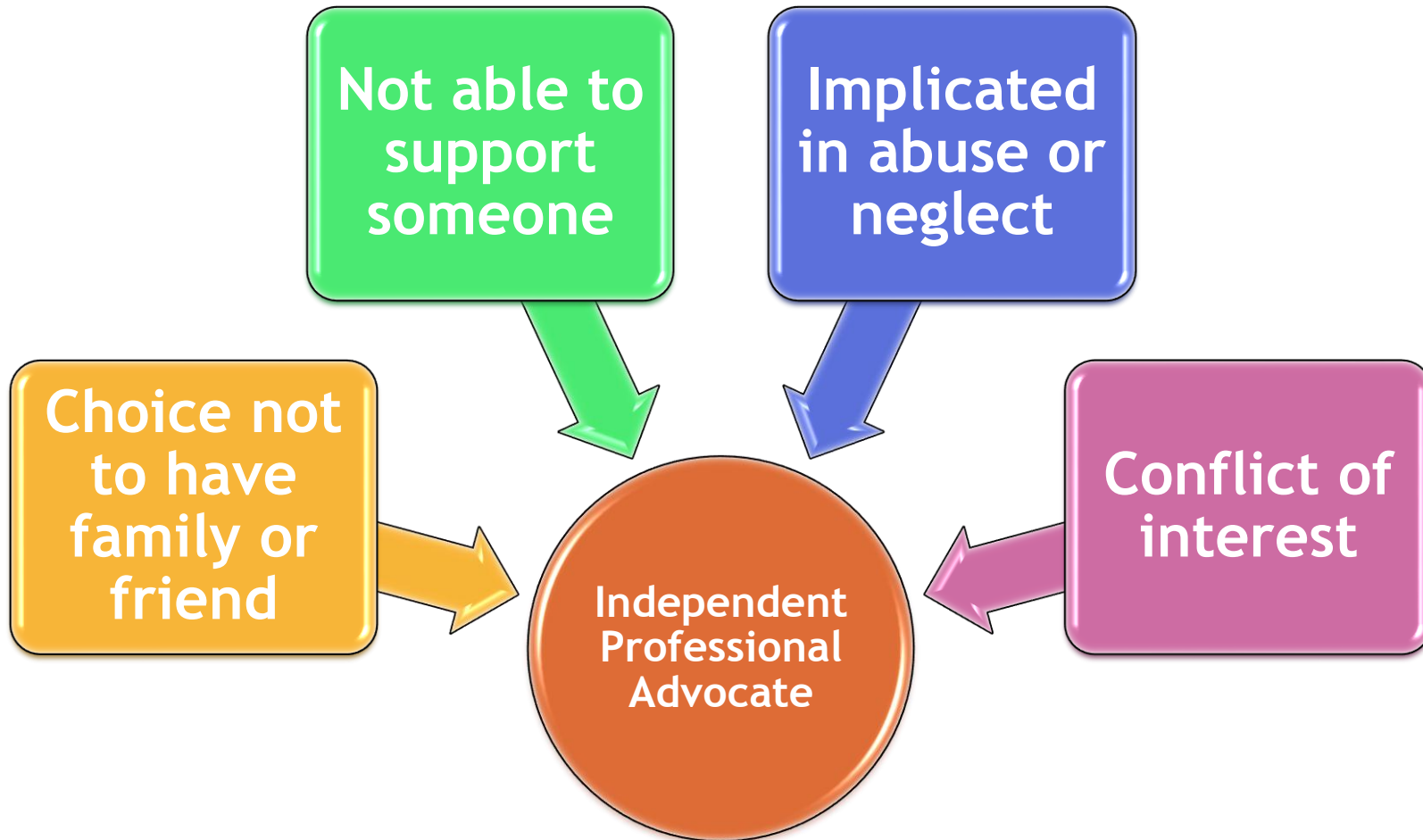
APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUAL

- Must be able to adequately support the persons participation

- Cannot be someone who does not want to support person

- Cannot be someone who is implicated in a safeguarding enquiry

INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY...TO BE OR NOT TO BE....?



ADVOCACY

The Act sets out the requirements for local authorities to:-

- a) ensure that access to advocacy services and support is available to enable individuals to engage and participate when local authorities are exercising statutory duties in relation to them and
- b) to arrange an independent professional advocate to facilitate the involvement of individuals in certain circumstances.

Don't be alone

Sometimes we all need someone to
speak up for us.