

Disabled People's Voice set out to map advocacy provision in Hampshire as part of the Community Cash Fund. Disabled People's Voice started their project with a desktop search and identified 20 organisations in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton to send a questionnaire to. A link to an on-line version administered via Survey Monkey was included along with a stamped address envelope so that people could choose how they responded. Disabled People's Voice received 10 responses. It was felt that this was a good level of response but as predicted overall there is little advocacy provision. Some organisations may not have responded as they no longer provide advocacy or not within Hampshire.

- There is good provision through Hampshire Advocacy (HARG) and its partners for people with learning disabilities.
- There is good provision through Solent Mind for people with mental health problems.

The following comment about concerns within national advocacy circles 'that statutory funding is becoming the only funding that most commissioners will provide / pay / afford at the cost of reducing funding to generic and community services' reflected local concern with one project winding up last year and another winding down through this year.

Recently interim arrangements have been put into place by Hampshire County Council to meet the requirements for Independent Advocacy under the Care Act but it is too early to predict demand.

Disabled People's Voice feel there is a need for more generic advocacy but how will sustainable funding be found? There was little interest in expanding advocacy services, even with money.

Disabled People's Voice found that there is a heavy reliance on volunteers, particularly in non-statutory sector with over half the advocates in Hampshire are volunteers.

There was no inequality apparent due to age.

A directory' of advocacy service provision and a report will be published shortly by Disabled People's Voice.

### **Recommendations**

There are pockets of innovation that should be supported to develop. Advocacy for other care groups beyond statutory should be developed. (There is some evidence that people are being turned away but more work would need to be undertaken to assess demand.)