

# Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme

## What does Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme do?

It acts with, and on behalf of, people who struggle to get their points of view across and their wishes, needs, and rights acknowledged. Trained volunteers, supported by paid staff, are used to speak up for people who, for example:

- experience mental distress or have a mental illness
- lack confidence or experience
- have a communication or language difficulty
- have a physical disability or illness
- are old or infirm
- are, in some other way, in danger of being ignored or dismissed by people in positions of authority or power.

## Who can ask Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme for help?

*Anyone.* Ask us and we will tell you whether we think we can help. We do NOT charge clients for using our service.

If we don't think we can help (our funding is not yet sufficient to assist all groups of people) we will try to suggest another organisation that can.

## What sort of things can Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme help with?

Potentially, anything where having an independent advocate (or ally) might help you to get your point of view across. For example:

- appeals regarding state benefits
- housing problems
- education and employment problems
- going with you to appointments with professionals
- appeals regarding medical treatment or care packages
- assistance with correspondence
- problems regarding gas, electric or other services
- referrals to other organisations
- getting your voice heard and your needs and wishes acknowledged.

## Can I volunteer for Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme?

Yes. You can volunteer to be:

- an advocate
- an office volunteer
- a management committee member
- a fundraiser.

No qualifications are necessary and training and support will be provided. So whatever your skills, age, or background it is likely that you will be able to help. Please contact us to find out more.

## **Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme**

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