



Care Act 2014: commissioning independent advocacy self-assessment tool

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- Use in conjunction with the 'Commissioning tasks' section of SCIE's guide: <https://www.scie.org.uk/advocacy/commissioning>
- Score yourself green, amber or red under each commissioning area.
- For each area you score green, record your key strengths in this area in the box provided.
- For each area you score amber or red, identify areas for development.
- Once you have completed the self-assessment, identify actions to address areas for development. Prioritise areas you have scored red.
- If you identify an area in which you think your authority is particularly strong, please share it with SCIE – email us at info@scie.org.uk.

	Green	Amber	Red
Analyse			
We collect information to understand current and future demand for advocacy under the Care Act.			
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We complete modelling exercises to confirm practice use of advocacy.			
We seek out and reflect on research and good practice evidence to understand the quality of services and understand what mix will continue to meet local need.			
We know what resources we have available for commissioning advocacy services and the profile of service users most likely to require support. We can confidently project our future financial commitments.			
We benchmark the costs of our plans with comparable local authorities and have discussed our plans with them.			
We have a systematic process of co-producing our commissioning of independent advocacy with local people who use, or may use, these services.			
We understand our current levels of supply and uptake, including what works well, and where there is over- and undersupply of services.			
We analyse the performance and demand of existing advocacy provision in our area.			

Key strengths	Areas for development

	Green	Amber	Red
Plan			
We have developed a clear written strategy and agreed outcomes for the provision of advocacy in line with our duties under the Care Act that signal our future commissioning intentions.			
We facilitate ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders and potential providers in order to build a consensus on the implications of our plans in the local area.			
We have developed a business case for the commissioning or recommissioning of advocacy in line with Care Act duties.			
We have a person-centred approach to commissioning which enables local people to contribute to the design of services and maximises control over services once they are established.			
We have a clear strategy for communicating commissioning issues with a range of stakeholders.			

Key strengths	Areas for development

	Green	Amber	Red
Do			
We have a clear picture of the range of potential providers in our area: their strengths, weaknesses and future plans.			
We influence the local market for advocacy to develop services in line with local needs, rather than the historical awarding of contracts.			
We have developed service specifications and contracts that are flexible, evidence-based, clear about requirements and outcome-focused.			
We have effective strategies and plans in place to ensure staff, people who use services and their carers are aware of and understand how our advocacy offer meets our responsibilities under the Care Act.			

Key strengths	Areas for development

	Green	Amber	Red
Review			
We bring together relevant data on the activity, finance and outcomes of our commissioned services to judge whether they deliver value for money.			
We have contract monitoring processes in place that focus on developing positive and collaborative relationships with providers to improve performance.			
We decommission services where they fail to meet outcomes or provide value for money, and where efforts to work collaboratively to improve have failed.			
We continuously seek to improve our commissioning skills and arrangements, reviewing and learning from our commissioning activity.			

Key strengths	Areas for development

Strengths to share

Areas for development

Action steps