

# National Advocacy Qualification

## What is the National Advocacy Qualification?

Advocates play a vital role in empowering individuals to take action, to make their views heard, choices safeguarded and their views represented. With over 10 years of advocacy experience, East Lancashire Advocacy has been developing and delivering advocacy training for several years, developing advocacy skills amongst health and social care professionals, voluntary and community sector organisations, carers and individuals interested in volunteering.

ELAS is pleased to announce that, for the first time an accredited course has been developed to enable advocates to recognise their skills, experience and knowledge through a National Advocacy Qualification at Levels 3 and 4. The development of the qualification has been commissioned by the Department of Health with support from advocacy projects across the country to help ensure the delivery of good practice.

## What does the course cover and how will it be assessed?

Courses will be delivered through a range of taught sessions and self study. Learners will be assessed through an evidence based portfolio, partly comprised of observations, self reflection and feedback from colleagues will be important. The course will be accredited through City and Guilds. It will cover the following level 3 core modules and optional modules at level 4:

### Level 3 Core Modules in:

- Purposes and Principles of Independent Advocacy
- Providing Independent Advocacy Support
- Maintaining the Independent Advocacy Relationship
- Responding to the advocacy needs of different groups of people

### Level 4 Specialist Modules in:

- Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy
- Providing Independent Advocacy to Adults
- Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Independent Mental Health Advocacy

## What will I gain at the end of the course?

A nationally recognised qualification that demonstrates your ability to support individuals through advocacy.

Individual units can be taken as stand alone units and accredited, but to gain the full qualification all core modules must be completed. Level 4 modules are optional and individually accredited.

Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA) wishing to convert their current certificate to a level 4 module in IMCA, will not be required to attend taught sessions but must produce a portfolio of evidence for assessment.

## Who should attend?

Anyone providing advocacy support or using advocacy skills within their practice. This includes Advocates, Health and Social Care Practitioners, Independent Mental Capacity Advocates, Independent Mental Health Advocates and Voluntary and Community Groups that may be supporting clients.

## How much does it cost?

To complete a core module it will cost approximately £400 and £700 for each specialist module. These costs are under negotiation and ELAS is in the process of exploring subsidies to reduce costs to learners. Those that have expressed an interest will be kept informed of availability and charges for the course and will be under no obligation to take the course with ELAS.

## How do I enrol?

The qualification is waiting approval from the Curriculum Qualification Alliance following this it is expected to be launched in early March 2009. If you'd like to be one of the first groups of people to take advantage of this qualification then register your interest or queries by contacting: **Bushra Yaqoob, Operational Manager** on (01254) 301030 or by email [bushra@elas.org.uk](mailto:bushra@elas.org.uk)



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