



## **Person Specification: Independent Mental Health Advocate**

### **Essential**

#### **Service Delivery**

Hold the National Advocacy Qualification (IMHA) – or willingness to achieve.

Experience/knowledge of providing Independent Instructed Advocacy.

An understanding of the principles of independent advocacy.

Experience of undertaking casework and managing a caseload.

Enhanced check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Experience of working with people who have mental ill health/learning disabilities.

Driving licence and use of car.

### **Skills**

Ability to engage with vulnerable adults; establishing and maintaining bounded advocacy partnerships.

Manage effective relationships with a range of professionals across varying disciplines and communications with other organisations.

Ability to understand the wishes and needs of mental health service users and speak up on their behalf when required.

Ability to research and explain information relating to service users' care and treatment and the Mental Health Act (1983).

Delivery of written and verbal reports to a high standard.

Ability to prioritise and organise your own caseload and maintain up-to-date work records.

Capable of managing your own administrative tasks and proficient use of Microsoft Word and database packages.

Good negotiation and problem-solving skills.

### **Personal attributes**

Motivated, accurate, flexible, patient, perseverant, non-judgemental and empathic.

Understanding of and demonstrable commitment to equal opportunities and diversity.

Focused on the views and needs of service users, and committed to promoting service users' rights.

Ability work on your own, using your own initiative whilst contributing to team objectives and supporting others within the team to ensure successful and effective service provision.

### **Desirable**

Knowledge/experience of working with people affected by the Mental Health Act (1983).