



Gloucestershire  
**Learning Disability  
Partnership Board**



**One**  
Gloucestershire  
Transforming Care, Transforming Communities

## **Learning Disability Partnership Board**

**What happened at our meeting on  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



**Welcome**

## Index

Page 3      Who was at the meeting

Page 5      What we talked about

Page 5      Two Advocacy Films

Page 6      Jacky from Access Social Care

Page 15      Simon explaining more about advocacy

Page 22      The Grange film and Big Health Day

Page 24      Anything else to talk about and our next meeting



## Who was there?

Wendy Wall - LDPB Co-Chair	Sue Walters – Family Carer
Jan Marriott - LDPB Co-Chair	Dan Jacques – Barnwood Trust
Paul Tyrrell – Inclusion Gloucestershire	Bryony Steel – GCC
Nick Baker – Expert by Experience	Ben Willis – Expert by Experience
Paul Yeatman – Chair, Safeguarding Adults Board	Matthew Owen – Expert by Experience, Brandon Trust
Karin Parker – GHC	Steven Smith – Brandon Trust
Simon Shorrick – GHC	Cathryn Preston – Brandon Trust
Gemma Clarke – Kingfishers, Action for Children	Sonia Evans – Brandon Trust
Luc Platts – Kingfishers, Action for Children	Steph Nash – Brandon Trust
Wahabi – Brandon Trust	Jeanette Williams – Brandon Trust
Jenny – Brandon Trust	Kim Whelan – Brandon Trust
Tamsin Morgan – Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum	Vicki - Brandon Trust
Annie Phiti – GHC	Ian Harper – Aspire Living
Gemma McKay – Healthy Lifestyles Gloucestershire	Sophie Ayre – NHS Gloucestershire
Vicky Smith – IHOT, GHC	Kathy Meansworth – Building Circles
Keely Tanner – The Department for Work and Pensions	Louise Worgan – Inclusion Gloucestershire

Nicola Shilton – GHC	Graham - Forwards Employment Service, GCC
Lara Gillman – GCC	Helen Kay – Building Circles and Gig Buddies
Amanda Eady – Forwards Employment Service, GCC	Emilia Humphries – GHC
Tanya Bees – GCC	Rosanna Gain – Inclusion Gloucestershire
Lara Gillman – GCC	Bee Clark – GCRP
Jacky Martel – Access Social Care	Deborah Livingstone – Independent Supporter
Althia Lyn – GCC	Terri-Ann Clarke - Expert by Experience, Brandon Trust
Mo Attoh – Gloucestershire Carers Hub	Royston Williams - Expert by Experience, Brandon Trust
Mark Brown – Expert by Experience, Brandon Trust	Anna Peacock – Barnwood Trust
Philip Hodges - Expert by Experience, Brandon Trust	Rose Savage – GCC
Simon Thomason – GCC	Linda Merritt – GCC
G Hoskin – GCC	

**GCC means Gloucestershire County Council**

**GHC means Gloucestershire Health and Care Trust**

**GHT means Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.**

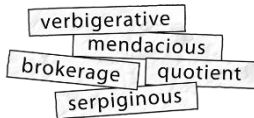
**GCRP means Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership**

**GCC may have to give information in this document to someone who asks for it. This is because of a law, called the Freedom of Information Act.**

## What we talked about:



Wendy shared the ground rules for the meeting.



Wendy will be asking people to explain tricky words.



Wendy shared her experience of having an advocate.



This was good for Wendy.

## Two Advocacy Films



In the first film an Expert by Experience explained what advocacy is.



In the second film, some said they had used an advocate to help speak up about staying in hospital because of their mental ill health.



These videos are on the GCC website: [Videos explaining types of Advocacy, including real life case studies | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

## Jacky from Access Social Care



Jacky is from Access Social Care



Jacky has been coming to LDPB meetings for many years.



Access Social Care helps people get the social care they need.



They work with anyone who needs social care and is struggling to get it.



Jacky asked: What is social care?



Social Care is not just about helping people be safe and clean

It does include that but it also includes:



Nutrition – healthy food that's right for you.



Having a comfortable home that is clean and safe.



If there is a need for the person to care for a child



Maintaining healthy relationships



Wanting to work, volunteer or be in education



Getting out and about in the local community. This could include going to the swimming pool or library.



If it looks like someone might need help with any of these things, the local council should do a needs assessment.



Some people chose to have their families involved.



If someone chooses not to have their family involved, then they might need an advocate.



Someone's family can still be involved, but it is sometimes important to have someone independent.





Jacky said social care is not free (unless you live in Scotland).



GCC provides social care in Gloucestershire



GCC ask for a contribution towards the cost of care.

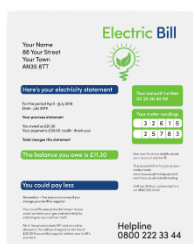


They will do a financial assessment.

They look at benefits, not earnings.



They look at how much money you need to live on. For example, how much does gas and electric cost.



If you have a disability you may have some costs which are more expensive. For example, the extra cost of washing more clothes due to incontinence.



The council will leave you with a bit more money each month to pay for things like this.



They will work out how much a person needs to pay towards their care each month.



You can get help if you don't understand.



You can also get help from the council's enablement team.



Care does not need to be the same for everyone to be fair.



The Care Act says there is not one set of rules for everyone.



Can a person do all the things we spoke about earlier?



If there is something a person can't do because of a disability that impacts their physical or mental health, they might be able to get help.



They might also be able to get help if it impacts a person's dignity or how they can be part of their community.



The council's financial assessment will look to see if someone has any savings.



The Care Act says it should be about what people need.



Everyone has different needs.



Jacky told the group that people can still have an advocate if they have a family member or friend to help them.



If someone asks for your help, remember, you can always say you don't feel like you are the right person to help.



Jacky told everyone about AccessAva.



AccessAva is on the Inclusion Gloucestershire website.



It is also on the Building Circles website.



AccessAva is robot (sometimes called a chatbot).



It can give you information and guidance about your social care rights 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



AccessAva will ask you some questions to find out more about you and your issue with social care.



From your answers, AccessAva will give you information and guidance.



There are people who can help you to use this. For example, the Inclusion Gloucestershire advocacy team.



Jacky would be happy to run a session to show people how to use AccessAva.



Jacky shared some Easy Read information helping to explain what advocacy is all about.

Jacky also had an Easy Read guide about the social care system.



### Questions

If someone wanted an advocate where would you get one?



For social care, people need to tell their social worker that they want an advocate.



POhWER provides social care advocacy in Gloucestershire



You can get a social care advocate when they do a yearly review.



You can also contact an advocate if things have changed for you.



Inclusion Gloucestershire offer peer-led advocacy.

PALS also offer health advocates.

## **Simon explaining more about advocacy**



Simon explained that POhWER can provide advocates for people who need help making decisions.

These advocates are called Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA's)



People have to be referred by a professional.



POhWER can also help with complaints advocacy.



People can ask for help directly or ask someone else to contact POhWER for them.



POhWER can help people in meetings or with letter writing.



POhWER can also provide mental health advocacy to people with mental ill health who are in hospital.



GCC pay POhWER for the service, but POhWER are separate from the council.



Simon told the group that lots of other advocacy happens in Gloucestershire





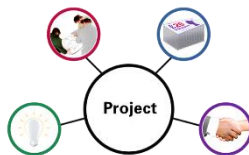
Simon has been working with the Partnership Boards (and others) to try and build a picture of advocacy in Gloucestershire.



65 organisations are doing some sort of advocacy.



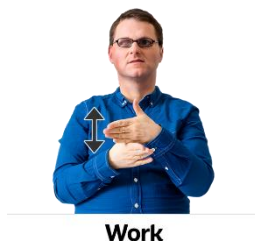
Simon is looking to see how GCC can support these organisations and how organisations can help each other.



Simon wants to hear from people if you know of any advocacy that is missing.



Simon thinks it would be good to bring advocacy organisations together for training and support.



Simon said we are only at the start of this work.



Jacky said her son's care is funded by the Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB).

There is no advocacy offered for people funded by the ICB.



This means the people with the most complex disabilities are left with no advocacy.



Simon's answer: if there is a safeguarding issue, it falls under the Care Act.



Simon said we need to tell the ICB about this gap.

Does Healthwatch Gloucestershire still offer advocacy?



Yes, but it is limited.



Jan asked: if people go on Your Circle, do lots of organisations come up?

Simon wasn't sure. Lara looked this up. There were 116 results for advocacy



People can talk to Healthwatch.



Information

Information is going to have to be kept up to date.



There are lots of changes happening with GCC and the ICB at the moment.



The LDPB and the Autism Partnership Board want to carry on the work that Simon has started as it is very important.



The need for advocacy is going to grow.



Deborah said: as independent supporter I advocate for people who are in hospital who shouldn't be there.

Deborah works for the best interest of the person, which isn't always the same as the family.



From LeDeR, we know the outcomes for people are much better for people with an advocate.



Building Circles gives training in self-advocacy.



It is free for people with Learning Disabilities.



Jacky's son had an advocate as a child, because the family were not being listened too.

A person from Brandon Trust said they have an advocate at the moment and it is useful.



Bee from the Community Rail Partnership said they offer travel training to people with disabilities.



They are going to have a board of train companies, that includes people with lived experience of disabilities.

Please let us or Bee know if you want to be involved.



The Enablement Team get to know a person and focuses on what they can do, not what they can't.



The Enablement Team can talk to social workers about what people can do and what they might need help with.



The Job Centre don't find advocates for people, but people can bring an advocate with them.



Brandon Trust said it can be difficult to find an independent advocate for people who have financial appointees and issues with their finances.

Jacky said if people have other needs, there are different ways to get help.

## The Grange film and Big Health Day

### The Grange Film



Everyone watched a short clip of a film about speaking up, made by the Grange.



The full film will be on Inclusion Gloucestershire's YouTube in the next few weeks.

### The Big Health Day



Sophie talked to the group about the next Big Health Day.



It will be on Friday 13th June at Oxtalls Sports Centre.



More than 120 organisations will be there.



Watch the last Big Health Day film here:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=s0Yx18G3Ljg](https://youtube.com/watch?v=s0Yx18G3Ljg)

## Anything else to talk about and our next meeting



Helen from Building Circles told the Partnership Board about Stay up Late Night – 10th May

Go to a pub or club and post on our social media



We will be at Stroud Brewery if anyone wants to join us. See the Building Circles website for more information.



Simon Shorricks thanked people who have been involved in the previous Big Health Days.



Simon said You're Welcome may be a great source of information for advocacy.



Simon has been running the Health Action Group for 23 years.





He is retiring in September and wants to keep it going.



He is looking for someone who is interested in taking it over – please let Jan or Simon know if you are.

**Our next in-person meeting will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June**



It will be at Treasure Seekers Hub,  
Eastgate Street, Gloucester



