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The vital role of advocacy today

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1 Defining advocacy
- 2 Why advocacy with older people?
- 3 The development of advocacy with older people
- 4 Advocacy today and tomorrow

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DEFINING ADVOCACY (i.)

- OPAAL defines advocacy as being:

  "A one to one partnership between a trained, independent advocate and an older person who needs support in order to secure or exercise their rights, choices and interests."

- The key principles of advocacy are:
- independence, empowerment and inclusion

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DEFINING ADVOCACY (ii.)

- Advocates undertake two main sets of roles – instrumental and expressive.

- ***Instrumental roles*** are formal, “doing” roles
- eg representative, spokesperson, appointee

- ***Expressive roles*** are informal, “being”

WHY ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE? (i.)

- Older people have many of the same advocacy needs as people of other age groups.
- The ageing population is diverse and old age in itself does not inevitably equate with vulnerability.
- However, a specific focus on advocacy for older people might be required due to a number life events and circumstances (also highlighted as an expressed need by older people themselv

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WHY ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE? (ii.)

- A decline in health and rise in impairment
- A greater need for formal and informal care
- Changes in living arrangements
- Isolation and decline in social networks
- Safeguarding from abuse
- Ageism and other forms of discrimination

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE – THE 1980'S (i.)

- Sparse legislative and policy development
- Emphasis upon consumerism not citizenship rights
- Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation & Representation) Act 1986 not fully implemented regarding the right to appoint an independent advocate
- Proliferation of Charters for people in various care settings etc – supported by

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE – THE 1980'S (ii.)

- Invisibility of advocacy with older people in the representation of specific groups eg people with learning disabilities and the wider disability movement
- Emergence of a few advocacy projects focusing upon older people in the late 1980's, including:-
  - Local Age Concern groups in Berkshire, Camden and Warwickshire
  - Beth Johnson Foundation advocacy project in North Staffordshire

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE – THE 1990'S (i.)

- 1990 NHSCCA and 1991 SSI guidance for managers recommended use of independent advocates if "best option" and "support" for development of independent local schemes BUT the Minister for Health rejected calls for funding independent advocacy
- 1991 Citizens Charter (Home Office) recommended "independent representation or advocacy where necessary in respect of social services

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE – THE 1990'S (ii.)

- In 1993 the Centre for Policy on Ageing identified 16 advocacy schemes working with older people in the UK – by 1997 a further mapping exercise identified over 60
- Schemes with a variety of organisational structures and a range of models of provision were emerging
- In 1995 *Citizen Advocacy with Older People: A code of good practice* was

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE – 1997 (i.)

- Developments at government and grassroots levels – a “critical mass” for change?
- Election of New Labour – citizenship, human rights, social justice and modernisation agendas
- 1997 First European Conference on Advocacy with Older People – UK delegates formulated the “Dublin Declaration” which ultimately became the Statement of intent in the founding of the Older Peoples Advocacy Alliance

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE – 1997 (ii.)

- A number of internal and external challenges were identified by the advocacy movement at this time.
- ***Internal*** - idealisation, definition, co-operation and training
- ***External*** - legislation, recognition, co-option and funding
- Would developments at government and grassroots level address the challenges besetting advocacy with older people and

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE SINCE 1997 (i.)

- There have been a plethora of relevant legislative and policy initiatives, eg
- 1998 Human Rights Act
- 2000 No Secrets
- 2001 Health and Social Care Act - PALS and ICAS
- 2001 NSF for Older People
- SEU Interim Report on Excluded Older People
- OFT Care Homes Market Study

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE SINCE 1997 (ii.)

- 2005 Mental Capacity Act – IMCA's
- 2006 Equalities Act – new Commission to include age
- 2006 Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White paper
- 2007 Putting People First Ministerial Concordat
- Personalisation, In Control, individual budgets etc.
- 2008 The Mental Health Act 1983

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE SINCE 1997 (iii.)

- The advocacy movement has made significant progress over the same period. A mapping exercise commissioned by OPAAL identified 136 local advocacy schemes working with older people in England. National initiatives include the formation of advocacy alliances and networks, partnership work with government and other bodies as well as the development of practice, eg:-
- *OPAAL's* recent work includes:- convening a national forum; a regional development project in the South West of England; a study on

ADVOCACY WITH OLDER PEOPLE SINCE 1997 (iv.)

- *Action for Advocacy* has developed an advocacy charter, code of practice, quality performance mark and has recently undertaken the *Lost in Translation* project on advocacy outcomes etc.
- *The Beth Johnson Foundation* has initiated a national project to develop support systems for advocacy schemes across England
- *Age Concern England* has initiated a Mental Capacity Advocacy Project to develop, explore and evaluate a volunteer advocacy service for older people who lack mental capacity

ADVOCACY TODAY AND TOMORROW (i.)

- Despite the developments over the past decade, several challenges and opportunities remain for advocacy with older people today
- There is as yet no “joined up” independent advocacy strategy at national level to support the joined up lives of older people
- Advocacy has only acquired limited legal status, recognition and resources in a narrow range of areas, largely confined to ICAS, IMCA and IMHA – a need for a wider legislative

ADVOCACY TODAY AND TOMORROW (ii.)

- In supporting greater professionalisation, will advocacy become “just another service”, its very essence lost?
- Can the core values and effectiveness of advocacy be maintained in working with older people in need of such support?
- Will *Putting People First* and related policy developments secure the place of advocacy in transforming services and the lives of older people over the next