

## Advocacy

The introduction of the Care Act 2014 and the natural end of some existing advocacy contracts in March 2016 provided the opportunity to re-tender the statutory and non-statutory advocacy provision for adults in Kent. Following extensive co-production with a wide range of stakeholders, and an open and transparent procurement process, a new contract has been let to SEAP to act as the Prime Contractor managing the Kent Advocacy Hub, a single point of access for all advocacy provision for adults. SEAP will work collaboratively with a range of appropriately qualified and specialist small and medium sized voluntary sector organisations, with expertise in supporting people with varying needs. The advocacy network delivery partners include:

- Advocacy For All;
- Rethink Mental Illness;
- Assert (Tunbridge Wells Mental Health Resource);
- Centre for Independent Living Kent (CiLK);
- Citizens' Rights for Older People (CROP);
- Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services (ADSS);
- Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD).

This contract will ensure services are easy to find through a single point of access leading to improved efficiencies and better outcomes for vulnerable people. The Hub will also provide wider social value in the form of leadership on advocacy matters across the voluntary and community sector and by attracting inward investment to develop the advocacy offer, to strengthen its independence, sustainability, diversity and reach as well as providing opportunities for volunteering and skill development.

### Tendering Opportunities

The Kent Advocacy contract commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 for three years with the possibility to extend for a further two years if all targets are met.

The Learning Disability Advocacy Service was out of scope of this contract at commencement, as there is an existing contract in place, ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. At termination, KCC reserves the right to include this provision within the new advocacy hub contract, if all parties are in agreement.