The Advocacy Project
The Advocacy Project makes sure the most vulnerable people in London have meaningful choice and control over what happens in their lives – particularly older people and those with learning disabilities, dementia and mental health issues. With a long tradition of working with adults and older people, we have now extended our scope and are undertaking invaluable work with children and young people. Find out more about us at www.advocacyproject.org.uk

Role purpose
We are growing and developing as an organisation and want to enhance our capacity in the area of older people in line with current and future trends. We have a well deserved reputation for delivering high quality advocacy. We are searching for an exceptional Independent Advocate (Older People) to work in our well regarded older people service.

This role will provide advocacy for older people, raising awareness of independent advocacy for older people in the community, including those from minority ethnic communities. You will work as part of a team of advocates, reporting to the Older People Service Manager.

Key responsibilities
- Provide a one-to-one advocacy service for older people and undertake case work
- Work within and meet agreed case-working standards, monitoring system requirements and service goals
- Ensure all those requiring advocacy are referred appropriately into the service
- Actively promote self-advocacy throughout all work with service users
- Maintain up to date knowledge of community care services/legislation and local and national policy relating to older people
- Keep up to date with developments and good practice guidelines in independent advocacy for older people, including different advocacy models
• Develop effective working relationships with key staff within health and social care services
• Work as an active member of the older people service, contributing to service planning and development. Where necessary, provide cover within the team.
• Raise awareness of independent advocacy for older people
• Undertake other projects and tasks as required

Person specification

Essential:
• Understanding of the issues faced by older people and those with dementia. Understanding of the issues relating to mental capacity
• Sound knowledge of services for older people, including current issues in policy and practice, and community care legislation
• Experience of the principles and practice of advocacy and an understanding of different forms of advocacy
• Ability to listen and build trust, to encourage people to express their own views and to represent clients’ self-defined interests
• Excellent communications skills (written and verbal) and interpersonal skills. Effective in working with a wide variety of stakeholders ranging from commissioners, to service users and colleagues
• Commitment to working within The Advocacy Project code of conduct, equalities and safeguarding policies
• Ability to work as part of a team and on your own initiative, to plan and prioritise your own workload
• Willingness to promote The Advocacy Project and the older people’s service in line with our mission, vision and values
• Evidence or commitment to ongoing professional development

Desirable:
• Understanding of the issues faced by people with mental health issues, learning disabilities
• Achieved a relevant professional qualification eg NAQ (or studying for a relevant professional qualification)
• Knowledge of advocacy under the Care Act, and also the Mental Capacity Act (IMCA)
• Knowledge of housing and benefits in relation to advocacy
• Understanding of Accessible Information Standard
• Ability to speak BME languages such as Bengali, Somali or Arabic

Employee benefits
The Advocacy Project staff are integral to the quality of the services we deliver and we are committed to providing an empowering, flexible and supportive working environment for all our staff. Our employee benefits include 30 days’ annual leave, participation in pension
scheme with 6% employer contribution, access to free confidential counselling service, and interest free travel loan/bike loan.

All our staff are encouraged and supported to access continuous learning and development opportunities and our advocates are supported to complete the National Advocacy Qualification.

**How to apply**
Please send a CV and cover letter setting out your experience to HR@advocacyproject.org.uk by 5pm 9 November 2017.