

About SWAN

South West Advocacy Network (SWAN) is a charity specialising in delivering independent advocacy.

We have developed a model which ensures everyone, including the most vulnerable members of our communities, have the same rights and opportunities as their fellow citizens.

Consent & Privacy

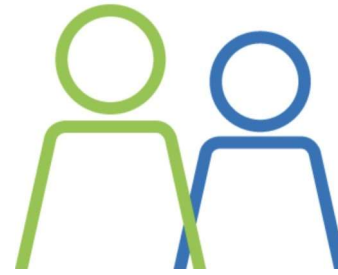
You have the right to refuse advocacy at any time.

Advocates will always ask you for consent before doing anything on your behalf.

In order to deliver our service we will need information from you that helps us support you.

We are responsible for keeping that information safe.

Read our full privacy notice on
www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/privacy



Contact us

Tel: 03333 447928

Email: dorset@swanadvocacy.org.uk

Web: www.swanadvocacy.org.uk

Address:

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Pan Dorset Advocacy Service
c/o Hi Point
Tower Street
Taunton
TA2 6HB



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@SWANadvocacy



@SouthWestAdvocacyNetwork

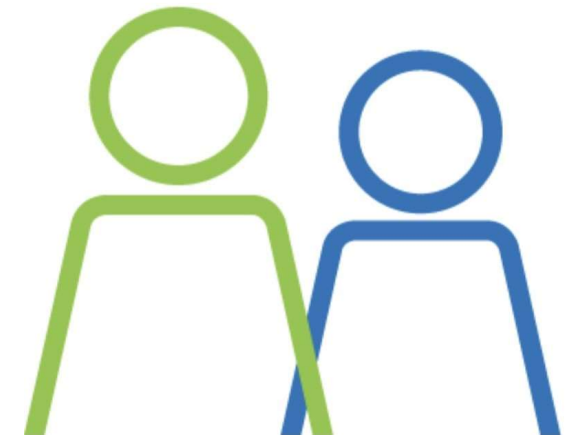
We can provide this information in different languages and formats, including easy read.

Registered Charity Number: 1125679

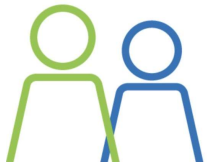
Company Number: 65992429



Pan Dorset
Independent
Mental Health
Advocacy Service



Tel: 03333 447928



Independent Mental Health Advocacy

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and get the services they need.

Advocates, and advocacy providers, like SWAN, work in partnership with the people they support and take their side.

Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice.

What is an IMHA?

Independent Mental Health Act Advocates (IMHAs) are specialist independent advocates.

They can help you understand your care and treatment and ensure your rights under the Mental Health Act are upheld.

Who can be supported by an IMHA?

IMHAs can support people who are:

- Detained under the Mental Health Act (except sections 4, 5, 135 & 136)
- Conditionally discharged restricted patients
- Subject to Guardianship
- Subject to a Community Treatment Order
- Being considered for S57 or S58A treatment, or Electro-Convulsive Therapy

What rights do IMHAs have?

IMHAs have the right to:

- Visit your ward and meet you in private
- Talk to professionals on your behalf
- Access relevant records when you give permission

What will an IMHA do?

Your Advocate will:

- Inform you of your rights under the Mental Health Act and make sure they are upheld
- Obtain information regarding proposed or current medical treatments, conditions and/or restrictions
- Support you at ward rounds, managers' hearings, appeals and meetings
- Ensure you are fully involved in your care and treatment
- Help you challenge decisions
- Support you to access legal advice
- Empower you to have your voice heard

How to get support

You can speak to the IMHA who regularly visits your ward, give us a call or send an email.

You can refer yourself, or ask a professional to do so on your behalf.

