



The National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities

NAS Organisation Code of Practice

Version 3.1

Date: June 2023

Document History & Revision Control

Document Review

The following table identifies those to whom this document has been distributed for review

Name	Role	Feedback Date Received
NAS Policy Advisory group	Code of practice initiated	Nov 2015
NAS Board Policy sub-committee and NAS Board	NAS Board & Policy sub-committee approval	Nov 2015
NAS Policy Advisory group	Policy reviewed	Jan 2017
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Document Version Control

Version History			
Version No.	Date	Comments on Change	Author
V1.0	Nov 2015	Document initiated	NAS Policy Advisory Group
V2.0	Jan 2017	Document updated following review	NAS Policy Advisory Group
V2.1	10.03.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated formatting in line with document control policy. Change to line manager rather than specifying roles where necessary to cover NAS and PAS. Page 5: Inserted introduction to NAS and PAS to cover organisational policy. Updated review date note. Updated footnote detail. Policy name changed to a NAS organisation policy to include NAS/PAS. Change to Organisation throughout document. In each of the standards outlined – changed from Independent, representative advocacy to independent advocacy to cover NAS and PAS (all models of advocacy). Page 11 – Standard 2.1 – added g) Assume every person’s capacity in line with the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015. Standard 3.2(d) inserted ‘and subject to public health guidance that may be 	NAS Policy Advisory Group

		<p>in place at any given time.’ (in light of pandemic and impact on face to face visits).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 3.3 (d) amended wording to say – ‘where a waiting list is in operation, the person will be kept updated on this on a regular basis.’ – removal of person will be informed of estimated waiting time as this is impossible in practice. • Standard 4.2 (c) removal of ECMS and replaced by reference to relevant case management data base to cover off NAS and PAS having different systems and to future proof policy if new case management system is introduced to NAS. • Standard 4.3 (c) changed ADM from a bill to an Act. • Easy to Read version of Code of practice created and added as Appendix 1. 	
V3.0	05/08/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to policy following review by Policy • Sub-committee and Board. • Update to version control/Footer 	NAS Board
V3.1	08/06/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added Document Control Coversheet • Updated Footer • 4.3 deleted “when it comes into force” • Where Ward of Court is mentioned in document, “or has a Decision Support Arrangement in place” wording added • Mission statement wording “HSE 	NAS Policy Advisory Group

		<p>Operated “ deleted. PAS remit updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 h) (as Amended) added. • 4.3 c) (As Amended) added “when it comes into force” deleted. 	
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Document Approval

Record of Approver sign-off

Group	Version	Date
Policy Sub-committee	V2.1	20/07/2022
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NAS Board	V3.1	20 th July 2023

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THE NATIONAL ADVOCACY SERVICE

Code of Practice

The National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities (NAS) provides an independent, confidential, and free, issues-based representative advocacy service that works exclusively for the person with a disability using the service and adheres to the highest professional standards.

In addition, the organisation provides an independent, confidential and free Patient Advocacy Service that works to support and empower all patients in public acute hospitals Nursing homes through the (i) HSE Complaints Process 'Your Service Your Say' and (ii) in the aftermath of Patient Safety Incidents.

Within this Policy, Organisation refers to the National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities (NAS), which incorporates both NAS and PAS.

1. MISSION STATEMENT

The National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities (NAS) provides an independent, confidential, and free, issues-based representative advocacy service that works exclusively for the person with a disability using the service and adheres to the highest professional standards.

In addition, the organisation provides an independent, confidential and free Patient Advocacy Service that works to support and empower all patients in public acute hospitals and Nursing homes through the (i) HSE Complaints Process 'Your Service Your Say' and (ii) in the aftermath of Patient Safety Incidents. While the primary culture of Patient Advocacy is empowerment advocacy, where this is not possible, representative advocacy may be provided where additional advocacy support is required to allow for the persons needs to be met.

2. VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to work towards a society that ensures the full participation of persons with disabilities. We recognise the capacity of persons with disabilities to make their own decisions equally with others, in accordance with United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

We recognise the right of all people to support, guidance and information when issues arise in relation to their care and treatment in public acute hospitals and HSE operated Nursing Homes which may lead to their wish to complain about their treatment or care or seek answers in the aftermath of a patient safety incident.

We identify the core human rights as being dignity, autonomy, equality and independence.

3. CORE VALUES

The NAS organisation has adopted five Core Values which inform its work.

1. Independence

The NAS organisation works with the person independently of others and free from all conflicts of interest. The Patient Advocacy Service is entirely independent of the HSE. The advocacy process is led and guided by the person.

2. Autonomy

The NAS organisation represents and empowers people in a balanced, fair and transparent manner and supports the right of the person to self-direction/determination (i.e., to be in control of their own life) and to make informed decisions based on their will and preferences.

3. Equality/Citizenship

The NAS organisation supports the right of every person to assert and enjoy their human rights, to participate in society as an equal citizen and to fulfil their full potential within a life of their own choosing.

4. Respect

The NAS organisation works with everyone in a way which demonstrates respect for the person as an individual and for their privacy, dignity and autonomy.

5. Empowerment

The NAS organisation aims to empower and facilitate people to be an active participant in actions or decisions which affect their life, through the way in which the advocacy process is carried out as well as the outcomes it seeks to achieve.

4. CODE OF PRACTICE - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Code of Practice is to ensure that the five Core Values of the NAS organisation are consistently reflected in the way in which the organisation carries out its work by setting out basic standards for the organisation's advocacy practice and the management and administrative practices which support it.

The Code of Practice should be read in conjunction with the NAS Organisational Policies and Procedures which provide more detail on how specific aspects of the organisation's work should be carried out, in accordance with the Core Values. NAS organisation staff are bound by this Code of Practice and adhere to NAS Organisation Policies and Procedures.

The Code of Practice is for all NAS organisation staff to assist them in carrying out their work. It may also be useful:

- to inform people about what they can expect from the organisation and the services provided (an information guide is also available);
- to inform and educate service providers, family members and other people who come into contact with the NAS organisation about the basis on which staff work;
- to assist managers with training, support and supervision and service review and monitoring.

5. CODE OF PRACTICE – VALUES AND STANDARDS

This Code of Practice sets out the standards to which the NAS organisation provides empowerment and representative advocacy, which are directly informed by the Core Values. The Code of Practice focuses not only on the NAS organisation's responsibilities in relation to the provision of empowerment and representative advocacy, but that all NAS organisation staff carry out their role in a manner consistent with the Code.

VALUE 1: INDEPENDENCE

The NAS organisation works with the person independent of others and free from all conflicts of interest. The advocacy process is led and guided by the person affected by the issue(s).

Standard 1.1: Independent, representative and empowerment advocacy is led and guided by the will, preferences and rights of the people who use the service

NAS organisation Staff

- a) work exclusively for the person using the advocacy service – supporting them and their wishes, respecting their confidentiality and sharing all relevant information with them.
- b) share only that information that is relevant to the advocacy issue(s) with relevant and appropriate third parties and with the consent of the person, where possible. Where, relevant to the advocacy support provided, they do not have direction from the person around sharing information they will use recognised approaches to assess what needs to be shared to progress the advocacy issue(s) at hand. Only in exceptional circumstances will information be shared against a person's wishes, in order to meet legal responsibilities (either specific statutory requirements or to prevent immediate and significant harm to the person or to others). NAS organisation staff will inform the person where such situations arise.
- c) are not influenced or compromised in carrying out their independent, empowerment or representative advocacy role by any other party.
- d) are alert to the situations where this may arise and avail of appropriate support and guidance from their line Manager in dealing with such situations.

Standard 1.2: Independent, representative and empowerment advocacy looks out for and minimises conflicts of interest

NAS organisation Staff

- a) understand the concept of conflict of interest and are vigilant for situations in which conflict of interest may arise.
- b) clearly and consistently explain their role to all stakeholders in order to establish clarity of expectations and boundaries.
- c) act in accordance with the NAS organisation Conflict of Interest Policy.
- d) consult with their line manager about any potential, or perceived potential, conflict of interest in a timely way and in accordance with the NAS organisation Conflict of Interest Policy.
- e) tell the person seeking independent advocacy about any actual or potential conflict of interest.

NAS organisation Management

- f) ensures comprehensive policy and procedures around conflict of interest are in place.
- g) supports NAS organisation staff to identify and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

VALUE 2: AUTONOMY

The Service supports the right of the person to self-direction/determination (i.e. to be in control of their own life) and to make informed decisions based on their will and preference.

Standard 2.1: Independent representative and empowerment advocacy aims to support people to have greater control over their lives and to maximise their involvement in decisions or actions which relate to their advocacy goals

NAS organisation Staff

- a) aim to build a working relationship with the person and to understand, respect, represent and empower the person's will and preferences.
- b) seek to involve the person in all aspects the advocacy process.
- c) keep the person informed throughout the process.
- d) access and/or assist the person to access relevant information about available choices.
- e) aim to present information in ways that assist the person to consider and weigh options and possible consequences in order to make their own informed decisions and choices.
- f) support the person to be directly involved in decision-making processes which affect them.
- g) ensure that all practicable efforts are made to remove any barriers to communication and to employ whatever methods or resources might assist communication.
- h) Assume every person's capacity in line with the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 (as Amended).

VALUE 3: EQUALITY/CITIZENSHIP

The NAS organisation supports the right of every person with a disability and every person who wishes to make a complaint and seek answers in relation to their care in a public acute hospital or HSE operated Nursing Home to assert and enjoy their human rights, to participate in society as an equal citizen and to fulfil their full potential within a life of their own choosing.

Standard 3.1: Independent, representative and empowerment advocacy tries to ensure that people's rights are upheld

NAS organisation Staff

- a) work to protect and uphold the human rights of the person.
- b) work to uphold the person's rights and status as a citizen.
- c) work to uphold the person's right to participate in the communities of their choosing. Support the person's right to take considered risks and experience failure.
- d) Support the person's right to make complaints and seek answers when things go wrong.
- e) work to ensure equality through due process for the person, making full use of internal and external redress mechanisms where necessary and seeking further advice and support as required.
- f) maintain up-to-date knowledge of relevant policy and law and seek further advice where necessary.
- g) ensure, through following policies on conflict of interest and case escalation, that they are able to appropriately pursue matters where rights restrictions or violations are observed.

NAS organisation Management

- a) ensures that NAS organisation staff receive appropriate training and/or can access expertise as necessary in relation to rights, policy and law.
- b) ensures that NAS organisation staff are fully supported by the organisation, in accordance with the Case Escalation and Conflict of Interest Policies, when dealing with other organisations and institutions in relation to rights restrictions or violations.

Standard 3.2: The NAS Organisation, and all its publications and communications, are accessible to the people who may wish to use the service

NAS organisation Staff

- a) make every effort to communicate with a person using the person's preferred communication style.

- b) explain the service as clearly as possible and as often as required.
- c) actively promote the service and seek out people who may not be able to easily reach the service.
- d) are flexible in making the service available at a time and place suitable for the person, subject to the NAS organisation Lone Working Policy and subject to public health guidance that may be in place at any given time.

NAS organisation Management

- e) provides all written publications in plain English.
- f) makes alternative formats available on request and produces material designed for people who use the service in Easy To Read format.
- g) makes Sign Language interpretation available on request.
- h) makes interpretation and translation to other languages available where practicable.
- i) supports NAS organisation staff efforts to work in situations where communication is difficult through appropriate policies and procedures, toolkits, assistive devices, training and support.

Standard 3.3: Independent representative and empowerment Advocacy is available to those who need it and services are allocated in a fair way

NAS organisation Staff

- a) have an understanding of direct and indirect discrimination and do not discriminate directly or indirectly against any person who may need independent, representative and empowerment advocacy.
- b) apply the NAS organisation policy and procedure in relation to enquiries, access and eligibility and prioritisation.
- c) clearly outline the access and eligibility criteria of NAS and the Patient Advocacy Service, explain the boundaries of the advocacy service and decline inappropriate cases sensitively and clearly with appropriate signposting and explanation of how to appeal the decision.
- d) where a waiting list is in operation, the person will be kept updated on this on a regular basis.

NAS organisation Management

- a) ensures that comprehensive policies and procedures around enquiries, access and eligibility and prioritisation are in place and that there is an appropriate appeals mechanism for refusal or discontinuance of service.
- b) ensures that policies and procedures are equality-proofed and do not directly or indirectly discriminate against any person or group.

- c) ensures that NAS organisation staff are fully supported in applying policies and procedures around enquiries, access and eligibility and prioritisation.

Standard 3.4: The Service is proactive in seeking out people who have difficulty in getting a service and who may not be able to enquire or seek advocacy support

NAS organisation Staff

- a) promote the service in relevant settings appropriate to the service, e.g., residential services, day services, isolated communities, acute hospitals, hospital groups and representative/peer advocacy forums.
- b) promote the advocacy service through varied channels.
- c) develop relationships with people living in residential services who may need independent, representative or empowerment advocacy support.
- d) develop relationships with statutory and voluntary organisations to increase enquiry pathways.

NAS organisation Management

- e) regularly examine NAS organisation policies, procedures and practices to ensure that they do not have the effect of excluding people with particular types or levels of disability or who live in particular settings.
- f) monitor gaps in service provision and proactively work towards solutions, taking into account available resources and existing unmet need.
- g) promote the advocacy service through varied channels.
- h) provide information to agencies or individuals who are potential sources of enquiries.
- i) work in partnership with statutory and voluntary organisations to increase enquiry pathways.

VALUE 4: RESPECT

The Service works with the person in a way which demonstrates respect for the person as an individual and for their privacy, dignity and autonomy.

Standard 4.1 Independent, representative and empowerment advocacy values the people who use the service and always treats them with dignity and respect

NAS organisation Staff

- a) explain their role clearly to the person they are working with at the outset of the relationship and as required, in the manner most suited to that person's preferred communication style.
- b) give people space and time to express their views, recognising that some people need considerable extra time to establish communication.
- c) always respect the privacy and dignity of each person by the way they relate to them.
- d) do not do anything the person does not want them to do. Only in exceptional circumstances will decisions or actions be taken that conflict with a person's wishes, in order to meet legal responsibilities (either specific statutory requirements or to prevent immediate and significant harm to the person or to others). Staff will inform the person where such situations arise.

Standard 4.2: Independent, representative and empowerment advocacy is accountable to the people who use the service

NAS organisation Staff

- a) understand they are accountable to the person they are supporting and to the NAS organisation.
- b) are easily contactable by the person within appropriate hours, which are clearly explained to the person.
- c) record all work and documentation on the relevant case management databases as appropriate. (except where In Camera rule applies).
- d) review their advocacy plan with the person on a regular basis.
- e) share any information they have received about the person with the person.
- f) ensure everyone they support knows how to make a complaint about the advocacy they receive.
- g) participate in regular case review and supervision to monitor work progress and ensure self-reflection.

NAS organisation Management

- h) monitors who engages with the NAS organisation, including how cases are prioritised, and uses this information to identify gaps and inform development.
- i) actively seeks feedback from people who engage with the NAS organisation and incorporates this into planning and service delivery.
- j) have a clear, effective and accessible complaints policy and procedure.

Standard 4.3: Independent, representative and empowerment advocacy is accountable under the law

NAS organisation Staff

- a) work within the law.
- b) understand their legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and work within the relevant policies.
- c) are alert to legal arrangements which may be already in place (e.g. Ward of Court, Enduring Power of Attorney, Barring or Protection orders, Mental Health Act orders, arrangements under the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 (As Amended) and work appropriately to promote the person's rights, will and preferences within these parameters or to challenge these arrangements through the appropriate channels.
- d) do not assist anyone to break the law.

NAS organisation Management

- e) ensures appropriate policy and procedures are in place where specifically required by law.
- f) ensures policy and procedure accurately reflects current law and is regularly reviewed and updated.

Standard 4.4: Independent representative and empowerment advocacy is effectively managed

NAS organisation Staff

- a) work within this Code of Practice and NAS organisation Policies and Procedures including the NAS organisation Access and Eligibility Criteria.
- b) inform their line Manager of any conflict of interest or other concern arising in a particular case.

NAS organisation Management

- c) ensures NAS organisation staff receive appropriate support, supervision and training.
- d) ensures appropriate case management policies and procedures are in place, are reviewed regularly, and are followed.

VALUE 5: EMPOWERMENT

The Service aims to facilitate the person to be an active participant in decisions affecting them, through the way in which the advocacy process is carried out as well as the outcomes it seeks to achieve.

Standard 5.1 The Service aims to facilitate the person to be an active participant in the advocacy process to the degree that they wish.

NAS organisation Staff

- a) support the right of the person to be in control of their own life and to make informed decisions based on their will and preference.
- b) do not do anything the person does not want them to do. Only in exceptional circumstances will decisions or actions be taken that conflict with a person's wishes, in order to meet legal responsibilities (either specific statutory requirements or to prevent immediate and significant harm to the person or to others). They will inform the person where such situations arise.
- c) recognise the person's legal capacity and in all cases aim to support the person to exercise their legal capacity.
- d) support the person to identify as a rights holder and to assert their human rights.
- e) communicate in the way the person finds most suitable.
- f) work at the pace of the person.
- g) seek to involve the person in the process as much as they wish to be involved.
- h) assist the person to build their capacity to participate in the process, if the person wishes.
- i) when representing or empowering the person through external processes take every appropriate opportunity to promote the right of the person to participate directly and highlight the changes in process which that would require.

NAS organisation Management

- a) ensures that NAS organisation policies and procedures support NAS organisation staff to work in a way which is empowering to the person, including supporting adequate allocation of time.
- b) ensures that NAS organisation policies and procedures are reviewed regularly in light of feedback on the experience of people using the service and feedback from other stakeholders.

Appendix 1 – Easy to Read Code of Practice

NAS Organisation Code of Practice

How NAS & The Patient Advocacy Service promise to work with you



NAS

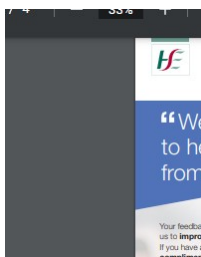
The National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities = **NAS** for short.

NAS supports people with disabilities with representative advocacy.

This means NAS Advocates can act on a person's behalf to tell others what they would like, or help them to tell others what they would like.



Patient Advocacy Service



The Patient Advocacy Service is another part of NAS. This is a special service for people who would like to make a complaint about their treatment in a public hospital or nursing home. The Patient Advocacy Service Advocates can help people with making a complaint through 'Your Service, Your Say' HSE policy or around safety incidents.



= **WE**
for short

1. How we work with people



We are an **Independent** service.

This means we do not work for any of the services that might be in your life, such as a Health Service, Mental Health Service or Disability Service.



We are **Free**.

This means that it does not cost you any money to work with us



CONFIDENTIAL



We are a **Confidential** service.

This means we will not share our work together with other people, without your permission.



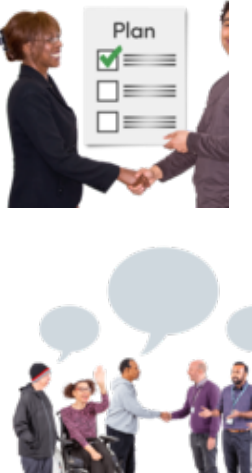

The only time we share information without your permission is if;

We think someone (child or adult) might be in danger

We think you might be in danger or

The law tells us we have to.

There are rules about this which we have to follow.

	<p>We will talk with you about this more if we need to do this.</p>
	<p>We are a Person Centred service.</p> <p>This means we are guided by you</p>
	<p>We know that people can make their own decisions unless other special arrangements are in place, for example, if someone is a Ward of Court or Decision Support Arrangement in place.</p>
	<p>We work to help people be included in decisions.</p> <p>We work to make sure people's rights are respected.</p>
	<p>We know that everyone has a right to support and information if they are not happy with their care and want to make a complaint.</p>



This policy talks about different things that we hold as really important.

We call these **values**.

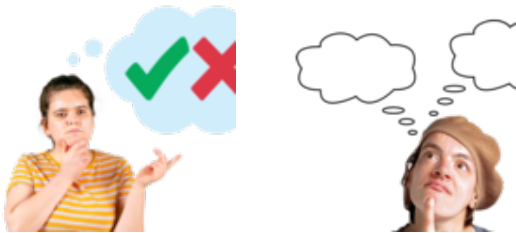


2. Our Values are

Independence, autonomy, equality, respect and empowerment



- **Independence** This means we work only with the person and not for any other service or person.



- **Autonomy** This means we work in a way that supports the person to be in control of their own life.

We also support people to make decisions based on their wishes.



- **Equality** This means we work to make sure people's rights are respected and they are treated the same to everybody else.



- **Respect** This means that everyone who uses our service will be treated in a nice, fair and respectful way.



- **Empowerment** This means we work in a way that supports the person to be included in our plan together.

We also work to make sure the person is included in the decisions about their life as much as possible.



We follow these values in all our work.

To help our staff do this, we made some rules for them to follow. We call these **standards**.



3. About this policy

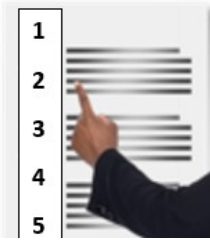
This policy talks about our values and standards



This policy:

- Helps Advocates with their work
- Helps managers support staff and plan for the service
- Helps people understand what to expect from the service
- Helps other service understand how we work.





This policy explains each value and standards in more detail. There are 5 in total.

We will also explain what each value means for how our staff work with the person

4. Our Values and Standards

Value 1: Independence

This means we work only with the person and not for any other service or person.



Standard 1.1

All our advocacy support is guided by the person.



What does this mean?

- We work only for the person using our service and support them and their wishes.



- We share all information with the person.
- We only share information that is important to our plan with other people.



We will ask for a person's permission to do this.



- The advocate will speak to their manager if they cannot follow these rules



Standard 1.2

All our advocacy support looks out for and reduces conflict of interest.

This means we always look out for any reasons it would not be a good idea for us to work on an issue.



What does this mean?

- Before working together, advocates will talk with people about their job.



- The advocate will speak to their manager if they cannot follow these rules.



Value 2: Autonomy

This means we work in a way that supports the person to be in control of their own life and to make decisions based on their wishes.



Standard 2.1

We support people have more control over their lives.

We make sure people are included in the decisions and actions towards their advocacy goals.



What does this mean?

- We get to know the person and what is important to them.



- We Include the person in making the plan and keep them up to date on what is happening.



- We find out information about your choices.

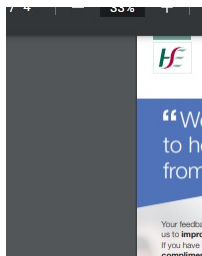


- We understand that people can make their own decisions unless other special arrangements are in place, for example, if someone is a Ward of Court or has a Decision Support Arrangement in place.



Value 3: Equality

This means we work to support people to stand up for their rights and to be treated equally.



We support people who would like to make a complaint and get answers about their treatment in a public hospital or HSE nursing home.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Standard 3.1</p> <p>We ensure people's rights are being respected.</p>
	<p>What does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We work to protect people's rights.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We support the person's right to be included and live the life they want.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We make sure people are listened to, especially in important decisions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We support people to tell others if they are not happy, to ask questions and make complaints.
	<p>Manager's job</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They make sure our staff know what people's rights are and can get training on new laws and rules. - They support staff to learn.

Standard 3.2

We have an accessible service. There are lots of ways to get in contact with us.

We work in different ways if a person communicates differently.

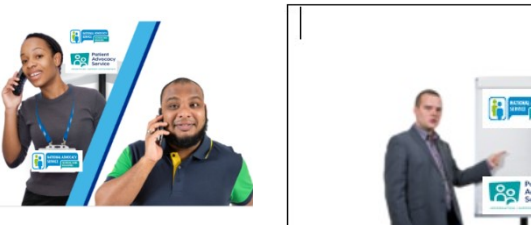
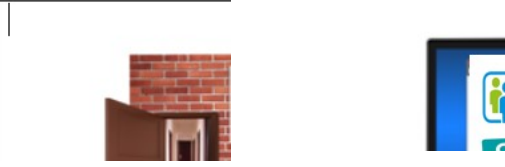
What does this mean?

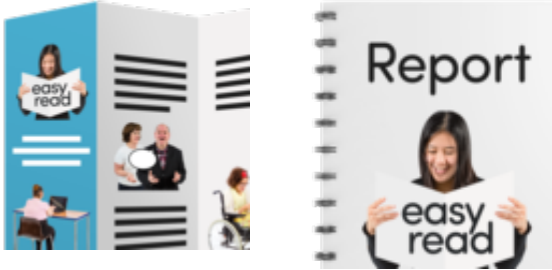


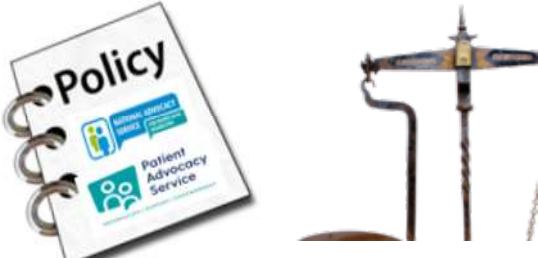


- We ask people about the best way to communicate together.

- We have accessible information available for people if this is their preference.

- We try to reach people in different services who might need our help and who might not know how to ask us for help.

- We will try our best to work with people at times and in places that suit them.



	<p>Manager's job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They make sure our information is in Plain English. - They make sure we have important information in Easy to Read.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They make sign Language interpreters available if needed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They support staff to find the best way to work with those that may communicate in different ways.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Standard 3.3</p> <p>Our advocacy support is available to those who need it and services are provided in a fair way.</p>
	<p>What does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We use our policies to make sure we make decisions in a fair way.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We follow our policy on how the service decide who we can work with. <p>This policy is called NAS policy on access and eligibility.</p>



- We explain how our service works and if we cannot work with a person, we explain the reasons why.

We will let the person know they can ask for this decision to be looked at again.

This is called an appeal.



- We will let you know if there is a waiting list and keep you updated.



Manager's job:

- They make sure we have the policies to provide our service in a fair way.
- They support staff to use the policies correctly.



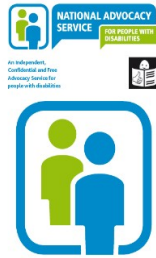
Standard 3.4

We work to make sure people hear about us and can get in contact with us if they need to.

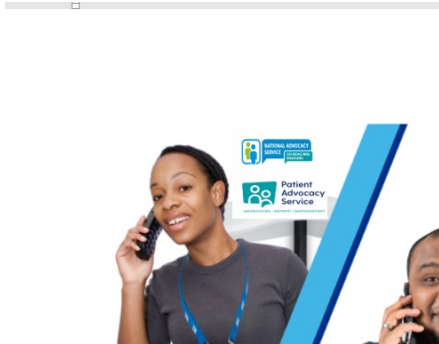


What does this mean?

- We visit different services and meet different people to tell them about us.



- We have different tools to help people learn about us for example we have booklets, videos, easy to read information and a website.



Manager's job:

- They work to make sure all people that need advocacy support hear about us.
- Make sure that other services know about NAS so they can tell others that may need advocacy support.



Value 4: Respect

Our service works with the person in a way that shows respect for the person.



Standard 4.1

We treat everyone who uses our service in a nice, fair and respectful way.








What does this mean?

- We ask people about the best way to communicate together.



- We explain our job and how we work.
- We give the person time to tell their story and explain their wishes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We treat the person in a way that is nice, fair and respectful.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will only do what the person asks.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Standard 4.2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our advocacy support is accountable</p> <p>This means we explain how we work and how we make decisions.</p> <p>We will answer questions you may have about our work.</p>
	<p>What does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will explain why we work in the way we do. - We will explain to the person what work we are doing on their behalf.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We keep the person up to date on our plan.



- We make sure the person knows how to contact us.
- We make sure the person knows how to make a complaint if they want to.



- We follow the rules of the service for recording our work.



Manager's job:

- They keep a look out for gaps in our service and come up with solutions.

us to change and improve how we work. If you want, trust to support you to fill this form in.

Were you happy with your Advocate?

- They ask people who use our service to let us know what they think so we can improve.



- They make sure a person can make a complaint if they want to.



Standard 4.3

Our service is accountable under the law








There are special rules, called laws which we have to follow.



An tSeirbhís Chúirte

What does this mean?

- We are aware of and understand the rules we have to follow.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff follow these laws at all times.
  <p>An tSeirbhís Chúirte</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff check if there are special legal arrangements they should know about when working with the person. - If so, staff follow these special arrangements for example if a person is a Ward of Court or has a Decision Support Arrangement in place.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff cannot help someone break the law.
	<p>Manager's job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They make sure we have correct policies to do our work.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Standard 4.4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our service is managed correctly</p>
	<p>What does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We use this Code of Practice and other policies to show us how to work best.



- We speak with the manager if there is a problem coming up in our work.



Manager's job:

- They support staff in their work and provide training.
- Make sure staff have the policies they need to do their work.



Value 5: Empowerment

This means we work in a way that supports the person to be included in the decisions about their life.

We also work in a way to make sure the person is included in our work together.



Standard 5.1






We work to support the person be involved in the advocacy plan as much as they want to.



What does this mean?

- We ask people about the best way to communicate together.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We support the person's right to be in control of their own life and makes their own decision.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We understand that each person can make their own decision unless another special arrangement is in place, for example, if someone is a Ward of Court or has a Decision Support Service in place.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We support the person to be involved in the advocacy work, if they wish to be.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We support the person to be included in the process and let others know what changes would make this happen.
<hr/>  <p>..... us to change and improve how we work. If you want, trust to support you to fill this form in.</p> <hr/> <p>Were you happy with your Advocate?</p>	<p>Manager's job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They make sure our policies guide staff to work in a way that supports the person to be involved in the process. - They make sure we get feedback from those that use our service and use this feedback to improve our service.