

ADVOCACY

The services listed here are primarily to help you get your voice heard, although they may be able to refer you to other relevant services if you need legal advocacy. See also the Legal Services section.

Advocacy Service (Harlow)

This is a free, confidential and independent service for in-patients of the Derwent Centre, Shannon House and Harlow residents who are aged 17-65 years and have a severe mental illness. It provides formal one-to-one advocacy that empowers service users to make their views known, exercise their rights, gain control, pursue issues and gain answers by enabling and supporting people to speak up for themselves. It supports the on-going development of group advocacy through Service User Forums for in-patients of the Derwent Centre and Shannon House. It operates from Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm. (Answerphone at other times).

Chris O'Sullivan, Harlow Advocacy Service, 3rd Floor, Aylmer House, Kitson Way, Harlow CM20 1DL

(01279) 698839 Phone and fax

Email: harlowadv@rethink.org

Website: www.rethink.org

Cornerstone Advocacy

This is part of Cornerstone Trust, a registered Christian charity that offers support aimed at improving quality of life through practical action. They work with people who need support to get their voices heard within the community and boost their confidence. This is done through the self advocacy group, where people can discuss local issues, and through formal advocacy support offered on a one-to-one basis through drop-in sessions.

Drop-in sessions for individual support – Monday and Thursday, 10am to 12 noon.

Self-help advocacy group – Wednesday 1pm to 3pm.

Ruth Rumens, The Cornerstone Centre, I, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AJ

(01279) 415871

Email: advocacy@cornerstonetrust.org.uk

Essex Young Person's and Children's Advocacy Network

This Network will give you advice on your rights and help you find an advocate. The advocate can collect information for you, make your voice heard, make sure you are treated fairly and help you make complaints.

0800 783 2187

Email: advocate@giveusavoice.com

Website: www.giveusavoice.org

Hospital Advocacy for Older People

This is a free, independent and confidential service to help older people in hospital make their views and wishes known clearly. An advocate will listen to what you want, help you to obtain information and to understand it, help you make your own decisions and help you to speak up for yourself (or speak for you, if necessary).

The Service is jointly managed by Age Concern Essex and Voluntary Action Epping Forest. For details of the hospitals served, contact:-

Claire Norman and Sarah Tolson, Hospital Advocacy for Older People, Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow CM18 7BL

(01279) 641930 – Telephone and Fax

Email: olderpeople.advocacy@keme.co.uk

Mind (Harlow) Advocacy Service

Harlow Mind runs a free Carer Support Service for people caring for someone with a mental health illness. It offers weekday telephone support (9.30am to 4pm), monthly Carers' Support Group meetings, one to one counselling for the carer and also an Advocacy Service to help carers to access services and make their voices heard.

For more details, of Harlow Mind's Carer Support Services including the Advocacy Service, contact:

Kim Clark, Service Manager, Harlow Mind, Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow
CM18 7BL

(01279) 421308 - Phone and Fax

Email: harlowmind@btconnect.com

Rainer West Essex Advocacy Service

This service works with children and young people aged up to 18 years (or 21 years if the young person is unsupported or in the care of Social Services). It acts on behalf of young people to ensure they are part of decision making processes that affect them, that they are being treated fairly and their rights are respected. It provides information and support, help with making formal and informal complaints and will accompany and support young people at decision-making forums. It will facilitate access to other practical and valuable services e.g. Children's Legal Centre.

Referrals can be made by professional agencies or by the young person.

There are also public drop-in sessions at Harlow Young People's Information Centre, Occasio House, Playhouse Square, Harlow on the second Monday of every month at 4pm

Maggie Lawlor, Advocacy Co-ordinator, West Essex Service, Ground Floor, Shield House,
Elizabeth Way, Harlow CM19 5AR

(01279) 408374 Fax: (01279) 438777

Email: maggie.lawlor@raineronline.org

Rathbone Special Education Advice Lines and Advocacy

Rathbone's Special Education Advice Line (SEAL) and the Asian Education Advice Line provide free, confidential and independent advice to parents and carers of children with special educational needs. They help parents to gain an appropriate education for their child's potential. They can help parents with writing letters, preparing for meetings and with appeals on their child's statement. The Asian Advice Line offers support to families speaking Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali and Hindi.

Rathbone, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU

0800 917 6790 Special Education Advice Line

0800 085 4528 Asian Advice Line

Email: advice@rathbonetraining.co.uk

Website: www.rathbonetraining.co.uk

