**James**

James, aged 15, asks his friend Arran who lives next door to come with him to tell his parents that he doesn’t want to continue with
his geography GCSE. James tells his parents that “geography’s so boring. I can’t learn in those classes because I’m so bored – the teacher just asks us to copy stuff down all the time”. Arran backs James up by agreeing with this, but when James’s parents ask Arran how he’s doing in geography he tells them he got a B in his last exam.

James’s parents know James wouldn’t take a decision like this lightly but they want James to think about his decision and take responsibility for looking into alternatives. They phone the school and explain the situation. It’s suggested that James meet with his geography teacher Mr Jacobs to explain how he feels. This is arranged, but James is very worried about how Mr Jacobs will react.

James doesn’t want his parents to come along to the meeting as he feels they’ll try to push him into carrying on with geography, so together he and Arran ask their form teacher Ms Huws if she can help.

* What kinds of advocacy are present in this scenario?
* What are the limitations of these kinds of advocacy?

**Georgia**

Georgia, aged 10, phones the MEIC Helpline. She tells the adviser that she has tried several times to speak to her social worker about problems she’s having with her foster carers but she feels shy and worried about what her social worker might say.

The MEIC adviser explores with Georgia whether there’s anyone she can ask for support to speak to her social worker. Georgia thinks that her Aunty Jane might be the best person, but when she starts to think about what she would like to say she decides that asking Aunty Jane for support wouldn’t be a good idea after all.

After some exploration of other options the adviser tells Georgia about her local professional advocacy project. Georgia feels she would like to be put in touch with them so the adviser arranges this.

* What kinds of advocacy are accessed/considered here?
* What differences could Georgia expect from her local professional advocate compared to asking Aunty Jane for support?

**Selina**

Selina has been allocated a new social worker Faruk. She asks Faruk to help her write a letter complaining about her old social worker who was ‘useless’.

* What are the issues for Faruk?
* What might you do in Faruk’s position?

**Isabella**

Isabella, aged 15, has a good relationship with her youth club leader Erica. She asks for her help to speak to her parents about her relationship with her boyfriend Jakob who also goes to youth club.

Isabella tells Erica that her parents say she’s too young for a relationship and she should stop spending time with Jakob, but she feels they should at least meet him so that they can see for themselves that he’s a good person.

Erica knows both Isabella and Jakob well and can see they make each other happy. She considers both to be sensible and mature, and knows they are both hard working pupils as she also teaches at their school.

* What are the issues that Erica needs to consider here?
* What might you do in her position?

**Jane**

Jane and her friend Amira meet for coffee every Tuesday. On one occasion Jane is clearly not herself and Amira, concerned for her friend, asks if everything’s okay. In response Jane becomes very tearful and explains to Amira that she’s worried about her husband Tom.

Tom suffered a stroke six months ago and now lives in a nursing home where he receives around the clock care. He’s not able to speak but communicates as best he can using sounds and gestures. Jane is upset as Tom showed her a bruise on his arm yesterday and, although he was clearly agitated she couldn’t understand what he was saying. When she left he seemed very angry and frustrated, continuously making sounds and gesturing towards the bruise.

Amira offers to phone the nursing home on Jane’s behalf to try to get some more information about what’s happened. Amira is familiar with the team there as her Mum lived there for a while. She doesn’t tell Jane as she doesn’t want to upset her, but she made a series of complaints about her Mum’s care at the time and feels that the staff there don’t care for the residents properly.

She speaks to one of the carers who says she’ll ask and ring back later that day, but after a few days they haven’t got back in touch. Amira rings again but is told that someone will speak to Jane when she next visits Tom.

Jane visits Tom the following week. He seems withdrawn and when Jane asks if he’s okay he again points to his arm. Naturally concerned, Jane explains to Tom’s carer Phillip that his arm seems to be bothering him and that her friend Amira had been trying to get information for her as she’s finding this very upsetting.

Phillip assures Jane that he’ll pass on her concerns to the team and try to find out what he can. He returns saying that his colleague has told him that Tom had hit his arm on the bed guard last week and had been checked over by one of the nurses. As there’s no serious injury just bruising they’ve offered Tom some painkillers which he’s refused. Jane tells Phillip that she understands and thanks him for his help. On hearing this Tom gives a heavy sigh and looks out of the window for the rest of Jane’s visit, refusing to engage with her.

* What kinds of advocacy are present in this scenario?
* Why do you think Jane receives support from different people in her life at different stages of the scenario?

**Jack**

David and Jack, both in their 60s, have lived together as a couple for 20 years. David owns the house they live in but they consider themselves as equal contributors to their home with David paying the mortgage and Jack carrying out renovations and maintenance.

After a short period of investigation David is diagnosed with a terminal illness. He deteriorates quickly over a few months and is cared for at home by Jack and end-of-life care nurses until he passes away six months after his diagnosis. Jack is naturally heartbroken.

Sadly David’s family have never accepted his relationship with Jack and a few days after the funeral he receives a phone call from David’s son informing him that the family require vacant possession of the house within three months.

Jack doesn’t know what to do and panics about the prospect of being thrown out of the home David and he built together. He rings Jude, one of the nurses that have been to the house daily, to ask if she’ll vouch for his loving relationship with David as he feels David’s son is implying that he’s trying to take the family’s inheritance away.

Jude visits Jack and gives him some leaflets about his rights. She suggests he contacts a solicitor as this is a very specialist area, but he doesn’t feel able to take this on alone and asks Jude to go along with him. She explains that this is outside of her role as she was there to care for David and now he’s gone she has to move on to care for other people who need support. However, seeing that Jack seems to be struggling to cope alone she refers him to a professional advocacy service.

Osian, an advocate from Age Cymru, visits Jack at home the following week and begins by asking him to relay the story from the time when David became ill. Jack becomes very upset and finds it very difficult to go back over this painful period of his life and despite Osian being very patient and understanding, begins to feel that maybe it’s best if he just moves out as David’s family want. Osian assures Jack that his role is to support him with whatever choices he wants to make. He suggests that they leave things for now as it’s clearly very difficult for Jack, and he’ll come back in a few days to see how he feels and consider if he’d like to arrange a solicitor’s appointment.

After a few days, Jack and Osian meet up for coffee and Jack asks Osian to help him access legal advice as he really doesn’t want to leave the home where he has so many happy memories and that he considers to be his and David’s together.

* What kinds of advocacy are present in this scenario?

**Clare**

Clare lives alone in a house on a busy street in a busy community and struggles with depression and anxiety. She has no family to speak of. Sadly her husband passed away a year ago and since then she has become isolated and detached from her neighbours and friends. Neighbours used to pop in every so often to offer any help she might need, but she always refused telling them she’s fine, so eventually they stopped coming. In reality, Clare feels very lonely and misses her husband terribly.

Jan is a long standing friend of Clare’s and visits her to bring some shopping and join her for coffee once a week. In the last couple of months Clare’s health has declined and she has spent short periods in hospital receiving treatment for a recurrent chest infection. She now has a community nurse Mica, who visits daily to administer medication whom she likes and trusts. Jan and Mica are the only two people who Clare has any contact with on a regular basis.

Clare enjoys sitting in her front window watching people walking by, but she’s become frustrated and angry with neighbours who park their cars outside her house blocking her view and is becoming distressed at what she feels is their lack of consideration. She tells them that she would like the space outside her house to be available at all times should she need to call an ambulance or paramedic as she feels silly saying that she wants to watch people walking by. After witnessing Clare shouting at her next door neighbour for parking outside her house one day, Jan offers to support her to talk to them about the parking situation.

Clare tells Jan there’s no point as her neighbours “go out of their way to upset her”, but Jan knows that the neighbours are nice people who are concerned for Clare. She tells Clare she’s being silly and should try to be more tolerant of her neighbours otherwise she’s going to end up alone. In reality, Clare doesn’t want to tell Jan or her neighbours the truth about why she dislikes them parking there and the situation continues.

A few days later when Mica visits she notices that Clare seems agitated and quieter than usual. She asks her if everything’s okay and Clare snaps at her telling her not to be so nosey. Mica leaves, concerned about Clare. When she returns the next day however, Clare apologises for snapping at her and becomes upset, saying she’s lost everyone she cares for and now she’s upsetting Mica, too. Mica makes Clare a cup of tea and reassures her that she’s not upset but she is worried about her. She asks Clare what’s been going on with the neighbours as Jan had mentioned that there’d been some trouble.

Seeing that Mica is genuinely concerned, Clare tells her how lonely she’s been feeling and why she doesn’t want people to park outside her house. She explains that she’s fallen out with Jan and is worried that she’s upset her only true friend. On hearing how Clare is feeling Mica suggests that she could try to get out into the community and link up with some of her old friends, but Clare doesn’t feel confident enough to do this as it’s been such a long time since she’s been out and about.

Mica suggests that she plan her visit for the same time as Jan in a few days time so that she and Clare can speak to Jan together. Clare can explain to her the truth about how she’s been feeling and they can think together about some activities that won’t jeopardise Clare’s mental health.

* What kinds of advocacy are present in this scenario?
* What are the limitations of these kinds of advocacy?