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| Overview | This standard identifies the requirements when you advocate with and on behalf of individuals. This includes supporting individuals to participate in decision-making processes and working with them to assess appropriate forms of advocacy in specific situations. It also includes both advocating with individuals yourself and supporting individuals to access independent advocacy. |

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| **Performance criteria**  You must be able to:  You must be able to:  You must be able to:  You must be able to: | **Support individuals to participate in decision-making processes**   1. assess the **individual**’s capacity to navigate systems and make their voice heard in decision-making processes that affect them 2. agree the level and nature of your own contribution in supporting the individual to participate in decision-making processes 3. ensure literature and documentation is made available to the individual in their preferred language and format 4. support the individual to understand the concepts of power and empowerment in different situations 5. explain processes and procedures to enable the individual to participate as fully as possible 6. work with the individual to build their capacity to advocate for themselves 7. carry out your agreed role to support participation in decision-making processes 8. confirm the individual’s understanding of the outcomes of their participation and any decisions made 9. identify any prejudice and discrimination encountered 10. challenge systems or processes that present barriers to participation 11. review the effectiveness of support provided   **Assess appropriate forms of advocacy for specific situations**   1. research types of advocacy likely to meet the individual’s preferences, needs and circumstances and the specific situation for which advocacy is required 2. confirm the individual’s right to access independent advocacy or use you or others in the advocacy role 3. clarify legal and work setting policies and procedures that may affect decisions about who is able to act as an advocate 4. confirm that you and other potential advocates are in a position to advocate on behalf of the individual 5. reflect on any past experiences that may affect the choice of potential advocate 6. assess with the individual the most appropriate type of advocacy to meet their preferences, needs and circumstances and the specific situation for which advocacy is required   Advocate with and for individuals   1. establish that the individual requires you to advocate for them in a specific situation 2. make professional judgements about any potential conflicts of interest that may arise if you act as advocate 3. clarify with the individual the desired outcomes of the advocacy and other possible outcomes 4. work with the individual to prepare a case that represents their best interests 5. support the individual to participate in processes to the extent that they wish and are able 6. make representation with and for the individual to achieve desired outcomes 7. communicate outcomes of the advocacy to the individual in ways that can be understood 8. record the processes and outcomes from the advocacy according to legal and work setting requirements 9. review with the individual the effectiveness of the advocacy   **Assist individuals to access independent advocacy**   1. clarify with the individual your role in supporting them to access independent advocacy 2. support the individual to use information to select the most appropriate independent advocate or advocacy service 3. support the individual to brief the advocate 4. carry out any further agreed responsibilities during the advocacy arrangement 5. support the individual to review the effectiveness of the independent advocacy |

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| Knowledge and understanding  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand:  You need to know and understand: | **Rights**   1. legal and work setting requirements on equality, diversity, discrimination and rights 2. your role in promoting individuals’ rights, choices, wellbeing and active participation 3. your duty to report any acts or omissions that could infringe the rights of individuals 4. how to deal with and challenge discrimination 5. the rights that individuals have to make complaints and be supported to do so 6. conflicts and dilemmas that may arise in relation to rights and how to address them   **Your practice**   1. legislation, statutory codes, standards, frameworks and guidance relevant to your work, your work setting and the content of this standard 2. your own background, experiences and beliefs that may have an impact on your practice 3. your own roles, responsibilities and accountabilities with their limits and boundaries 4. the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of others with whom you work 5. how to access and work to procedures and agreed ways of working 6. the meaning of person-centred working and the importance of knowing and respecting each person as an individual 7. the prime importance of the interests and well-being of the individual 8. the individual’s cultural and language context 9. how to build trust and rapport in a relationship 10. how your power and influence as a worker can impact on relationships 11. how to work in ways that promote active participation and maintain individuals’ dignity, respect, personal beliefs and preferences 12. how to work in partnership with individuals, key people and others 13. how to manage ethical conflicts and dilemmas in your work 14. how to challenge poor practice 15. how and when to seek support in situations beyond your experience and expertise   **Theory for practice**   1. the nature and impact of **factors that may affect the health, wellbeing and development of individuals** you care for or support 2. theories underpinning our understanding of human development and factors that affect it   **Personal and professional development**   1. principles of reflective practice and why it is important 2. your role in developing the professional knowledge and practice of others 3. how to promote evidence based practice   **Communication**   1. factors that can affect communication and language skills and their development in individuals 2. methods to promote effective communication and enable individuals to communicate their needs, views and preferences   **Health and Safety**   1. legal and statutory requirements for health and safety 2. your work setting policies and practices for monitoring and maintaining health, safety and security in the work environment 3. practices for the prevention and control of infection in the context of this standard   **Safe-guarding**   1. legislation and national policy relating to the safe-guarding and protection of children, young people and adults 2. the responsibility that everyone has to raise concerns about possible harm or abuse, poor or discriminatory practices 3. indicators of potential harm or abuse 4. how and when to report any concerns about abuse, poor or discriminatory practice, resources or operational difficulties 5. what to do if you have reported concerns but no action is taken to address them 6. local systems and multi-disciplinary procedures that relate to safeguarding and protection from harm or abuse   Multi-disciplinary working   1. the purpose of working with other professionals and agencies 2. the remit and responsibilities of other professionals and agencies involved in multi-disciplinary work   **Handling information**   1. legal requirements, policies and procedures for the security and confidentiality of information 2. legal and work setting requirements for recording information and producing reports 3. principles of confidentiality and when to pass on otherwise confidential information 4. how to record written information with accuracy, clarity, relevance and an appropriate level of detail 5. how and where electronic communications can and should be used for communicating, recording and reporting   **Leading practice**   1. theories about leadership 2. standards of practice, service standards and guidance relating to the work setting 3. national and local initiatives to promote the well-being of individuals 4. lessons learned from government reports, research and inquiries into serious failures of health or social care practice and from successful interventions 5. methods of supporting others to work with and support individuals, key people and others 6. how to contribute to the development of systems, practices, policies and procedures 7. techniques for problem solving and innovative thinking   **Risk management**   1. principles of risk assessment and risk management 2. principles of positive risk-taking   Specific to this NOS   1. work setting structures, policies and procedures for advocacy 2. the range of local and appropriate national resources and services 3. theories about how systems work 4. principles, theories and methods of advocacy 5. principles, theories and methods of empowerment 6. principles about balancing the rights of individuals with the interests of society and the requirements of practice 7. approaches to presenting evidence and information in different formats and for different audiences 8. lessons learned from both serious failure of service and practice and from successful interventions 9. approaches to evidence and knowledge based practice 10. theories of organisations, group behaviour and organisational change 11. theories and methods of promoting personal, social and emotional well- being |

**Additional Information**

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| Scope/range relating to performance criteria | The details in this field are explanatory statements of scope and/or examples of possible contexts in which the NOS may apply; they are not to be regarded as range statements required for achievement of the NOS.  Note: Where an individual finds it difficult or impossible to express their own preferences and make decisions about their life, achievement of this standard may require the involvement of advocates or others who are able to represent the views and best interests of the individual.  Where there are language differences within the work setting, achievement of this standard may require the involvement of interpreters or translation services.    The **individual** is the person who requires advocacy  **Others** are your colleagues and other professionals whose work contributes to the individual’s well-being and who enable you to carry out your role  **Policies and procedures** are formally agreed and binding ways of working that apply in many settings. Where policies and procedures do not exist, the term includes other agreed ways of working. |

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| Scope/range relating to knowledge and understanding | The details in this field are explanatory statements of scope and/or examples of possible contexts in which the NOS may apply; they are not to be regarded as range statements required for achievement of the NOS.  **All knowledge statements must be applied in the context of this standard.**  **Factors** **that may affect the health, wellbeing and development of individuals** may include adverse circumstances or trauma before or during birth; autistic spectrum conditions; dementia; family circumstances; frailty; harm or abuse; injury; learning disability; medical conditions (chronic or acute); mental health; physical disability; physical ill health; poverty; profound or complex needs; sensory needs; social deprivation; substance misuse |

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| Values | Adherence to codes of practice or conduct where applicable to your role and the principles and values that underpin your work setting, including the rights of children, young people and adults. These include the rights:  To be treated as an individual  To be treated equally and not be discriminated against  To be respected  To have privacy  To be treated in a dignified way  To be protected from danger and harm  To be supported and cared for in a way that meets their needs, takes account of their choices and also protects them  To communicate using their preferred methods of communication and language  To access information about themselves |

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| Originating organisation | Skills for Care & Development |
| Original URN | HSC410 |
| Relevant occupations | Health, Public Services and Care; Health and Social Care; Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations; Health and Social Services Officers; Health Associate Professionals; Personal Service Occupations; Healthcare and Related Personal Services; |
| Suite | Health and Social Care |
| Key words | advocate, capacity, decisions |