A new service supporting and representing people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition, and whose care or treatment is being reviewed.
The Transforming Care agenda set out by the Government and leading organisations across health and social care is committed to improving services for people with a learning disability and/or autism, including those with a mental health condition, who display behaviour that challenges. This national system-wide agenda for change will enable more people to live in the community, with the right support, and close to home.

POhWER is delivering a new Independent Advocacy service to people affected by the Transforming Care agenda in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire. This service can support anyone with a learning disability and/or autism who is at risk of being admitted to or is already in hospital for assessment and treatment of their mental health needs and/or challenging behaviour, who is:

- funded by Nottingham City Council or CCG or Nottinghamshire County Council or CCGs, and

- involved in or the subject of key reviews including a Care and Treatment Review and likely to be facing a range of major life decisions and potentially be subject to decision making processes under the Mental Health Act 1983, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 or the Care Act 2014.
Independent Advocates will:

• Work with the person, professionals and others to understand the person as much as possible, to understand and work positively with challenging behaviour and to provide continuity of advocacy support over time

• Ascertain and represent the views and wishes of the person in Care and Treatment Reviews or urgent or ‘Blue Light’ reviews which are conducted by phone

• Enable the person to identify the best way to contribute to the review process, negotiate this with the chair of the review, and support the person’s ability to self-advocate as much as possible

• Use non-instructed advocacy to gain an understanding of and to represent the person if they lack capacity regarding instruction of an advocate or decisions regarding their care or treatment (and where involvement of an independent advocate is deemed in their best interests)

• Work with persons who do not communicate using speech or who use a highly individual communication style

• Add an independent voice to the review process, advocating the principles and objectives of the Transforming Care agenda, and make their role clear to professionals as well as the person’s family where relevant

• Provide other relevant advocacy roles for or on behalf of the person, including statutory Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA), Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) or Care Act Advocacy, where each type of advocacy is required.
How to contact us:

- telephone - 0300 020 0093 (charged at local rate)
- minicom - 0300 456 2364
- email - yourvoiceyourchoice@pohwer.net
- Skype - pohwer.advocacy
  (8am to 6pm Monday to Friday)
- post - PO Box 14043, Birmingham, B6 9BL
- website - www.pohwer.net