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Our reference ic383277

Dear Ms McInerney,

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which I received on 8 November 2016, concerning statistics on independent advocacy.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing this information.

1. How many adult service users have been assessed under The Care Act in the borough of Lewisham since the implementation of The Care Act in April 2015?

1159 (New) service users from 1 April 2015 to 30 November 2016. These are new users as all others would receive a review.

2. How many service users have been referred to and appointed an independent advocacy service under the Care Act since implementation?

In 2015-16 there were 62 referrals to the Lewisham Care Act advocacy service. As a result, 60 cases were opened.

In the first 6 months of 2016-17 there were 50 referrals to the Lewisham Care Act advocacy service. As a result, 50 cases were opened.

3. How many service users over the age of 65 have been referred to an independent advocate?

Age at point of referral is not requested or collated but in 2015-16, 55% of the caseload consisted of people over 65 years. From July to September 2016 there were 60 adults with an advocate, of which 17 people were aged over 80 years and 10 people were aged 60 to 79 years.

3. How many Lewisham service users did the council predict would be appointed independent advocates during after the introduction of this new entitlement?

No data is available.

4. Has the borough conducted any research exploring the uptake of independent advocacy in Lewisham?

No formal research study has been conducted.

6. What is the current adult population of Lewisham and the population of older adults in Lewisham (those aged 65 plus).

The Council applies Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to this request.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*"21. (1) Information which is readily available to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.*

*(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)-*

*(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and (b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or upon payment.*

*(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme."*

*This information is readily available on the following website:*

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

7. How does an adult service user in Lewisham get appointed an advocate? Can adults refer themselves? Who can refer adults to independent advocacy?

When a referral is made to the local provider of independent advocacy under the Care Act, if the referral meets the Care Act criteria then an advocate will be appointed. Referrals can be (and are) accepted from anywhere, including self-referrals. In practice, most referrals to date have been from social services teams. However, the source of referrals is changing – there were 6 self-referrals from July to September 2016.

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I trust that the information provided is useful to you, but if you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me again.

Yours sincerely

Julie Hatch  
Complaints Officer for Community Services