



advocacy services
training

If you are an advocate, now is the time to get qualified with the National Advocacy Qualification

More and more contracts in the advocacy sector are requiring qualified advocates. So for your project or organisation, having an advocacy qualification will give you a much needed advantage when it comes to new tenders. For you as an individual, having a recognised advocacy qualification will give you an advantage when you apply for advocacy positions in the future.

ASIST Advocacy Services are now offering the accredited National Advocacy Qualification course developed to enable advocates to have their skills, experience and knowledge recognised and certified.

We are an approved BILD satellite centre and deliver the training and assessment you need in order to become a qualified advocate, with our dedicated assessors giving you comprehensive support.

Our courses are mainly run from Stoke-on-Trent, but we are flexible in offering group courses at your workplace anywhere in the country.



Louise Greensmith, our Training Project Coordinator has over ten years experience as a training and development specialist, including a teaching background gained within a wide variety of disciplines and levels in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Louise has extensive experience in developing bespoke training and development programmes provides unique insight into running qualifications and meeting assessment requirements.

Our qualified trainers have extensive experience in the field of advocacy working for Asist.

What is the National Advocacy Qualification?

NAQ is the only nationally recognised qualification for advocates.

Asist offers courses in all the core units 301, 301, 303 and 304. In addition we offer courses in a number of specialist units 306 (IMHA), 305 (IMCA), 310 (Dols) and 308 (working with adults)

By combining various units you can obtain either a Level 3 Certificate in Independent Advocacy or a Level 3 Diploma in Independent Advocacy.

The Certificate in Independent Advocacy consists of four mandatory units and one of the five specialist units. To achieve a full certificate, advocates will need to complete the four mandatory (core) units plus one of the specialist units.

The Diploma in Independent Advocacy consists of four mandatory units plus two specialist units on Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. To achieve the full diploma, advocates will need to complete the four mandatory units plus these two specialist units.

Units can be taken in any order and it is not expected that all units are undertaken at the same time.

Why were the qualifications developed?

The introduction of two new forms of statutory advocacy, Independent Mental Capacity Advocates and Independent Mental Health Advocates, signalled the need for greater focus on quality and consistency across the advocacy sector.

These qualifications have been developed by the Department of Health in partnership with City & Guilds, with support from advocacy projects across the country to achieve quality and consistency in advocacy training.

What does the course cover and how will it be assessed?

Courses will be delivered through a range of taught sessions and self study. The qualifications are QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework) competency based qualifications. This means the qualifications are assessed on real life experience and are thus tailor made for practicing advocates.

Learners will be assessed through an electronic, evidence based portfolio; this method provides complete flexibility and removes the need for a “bulky” paper based portfolio. It allows assessment to be carried out simply and efficiently.

To complete a unit, learners must build an e-portfolio of evidence, including direct assessment in their workplace, to demonstrate their competency against different learning outcomes. The e-portfolio will comprise evidences based on observations, self reflection, written assignments and feedback from colleagues.

What will I gain at the end of the course?

A nationally recognised qualification that demonstrates your ability to support individuals through advocacy. The qualification shows that you are good at what you do and have achieved a recognised standard.

What should I do next?

For a more detailed explanation of the services we offer please visit our website:



www.asist.co.uk

For further details and enquiries regarding training and qualifications, contact Louise Greensmith, our specialist trainer and TAQA approved NAQ assessor by:



training@asist.co.uk



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About Asist

- Asist was established in 1994
- Asist's core activity is the provision of advocacy services
- Asist offers advocacy to people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent who have a disability or Mental health need
- Asist runs the IMHA and IMCA services in the County
- Asist employs 39 advocates and project workers and supports 20 volunteers
- Asist is at the forefront of good practice and has achieved Investors In People (IIP) since 1999, was one of the first organisations to obtain the Quality Performance Mark (2009) and have recently been awarded the QPM for our IMCA service (2011)

Asist also offers training in a number of specialist areas of advocacy such as the Watching Brief (Non-Instructed Advocacy) and Communication training.



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