



The Watching Brief Non-Instructed Advocacy (NIA)

Non-Instructed Advocacy (NIA)

NIA is used when a person is unable to communicate their wishes and views .

Instructed Advocacy

An advocate listens to their partner, shares information with them, encourages self-advocacy and/or represents their views. The advocacy work is instructed by the advocacy partner.

The right questions

The advocate constructs questions for a decision maker, taking into consideration the advocacy partner's known preferences and rights.

Knowing your advocacy partner

The advocate will:

- Get to know their partner.
- Find out about their life, history, likes, dislikes and preferences.
- Examine legislation and guidance relevant to the decisions being considered.
- Take into account their partners protected characteristics.

The core of NIA

Advocates use the Watching Brief to create questions for their partner. The questions are based on the 8 domains of ordinary living that anyone may want in the same circumstances.

The 8 Domains

When the advocate has gathered information about the person, they will be able to construct questions that match their partners preferences and upholds their rights using the 8 domains of The Watching Brief as below:

The 8 Domains	Domain	Definition	Being positive	Avoiding
	Skills & abilities	developing and using your skills to be as independent as possible	encouraging you to develop or retain aptitudes, skills and abilities in order that you can live a life as independent as possible	maintaining dependence and inactivity - relying on others - not taking risks or allowing you to do things by yourself
	community presence	using, being involved with and contributing to the local community	encouraging you to use, be involved in and contribute to local and public facilities and amenities	making you use segregated services or avoiding local facilities - keeping you apart from other people
	continuity	having a past, present and future with key people and events in your life	being treated as a person with a past present and future - the continuity of your history to be seen as important	stagnation and loss - decisions are made with no reference to your past or future - having no plans, ambitions or dreams
	choice & influence	influencing and making choices about your own life	making as many of your own decisions and choices because you want to - being clear about what is important to you - being able to make unwise or risky decisions	people make decisions on what, in their opinion, is in your best interest
	individuality	being a unique and distinctive person in your own right	treating you as a unique person with your own needs and desires	treating you as part of a group with identical needs and desires
	status & respect	being held in esteem and valued for who you are	treating you as a valued citizen with an identity and rights	looking at your disability first and not you as a person
	partnerships & relationships	having meaningful contact with other people	valuing the quality of interaction and friendship - promoting social networks	only associating with paid staff and limiting your access to other people
	well-being	feeling physically and psychologically well	having the right quality care to meet your physiological, psychological and social needs - maintaining a productive and healthy life	accepting illness and disability as a given - not securing appropriate health support and treatment

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