

Julie Thorpe

I believe that people know best what it is like to live with their difficulties and I respect the expertise of family carers.

Being “in the know” can be difficult, and I want people to get chances to be actively engaged, to get the best possible services.

I will do this by finding high quality, value for money, innovative solutions.

I have always been keen to promote equality, inclusion and opportunity for people who have great needs, are often isolated and are hard to reach.

I aim to provide and help others to secure services that promote personal development, build confidence, balance rights with responsibilities, to improve safeguarding and the health and wellbeing of very vulnerable people.

My skills, knowledge and experience

I am a member of the Institute for Leadership and Management, a member of the Institute for learning and a Director of Advocacy 2 Engagement, a social enterprise that has worked since 2005 to improve the engagement of vulnerable people through training and consultancy, working with organisations and vulnerable people themselves.

Any profits we make are reinvested in the organisations development, for the benefit of vulnerable people.

Advocacy 2 Engagement is a partnership organisation of the Social Enterprise Coalition and a member of SEEM, social enterprise East Midlands.

My previous experience includes the management of The Advocacy Alliance (NNAA)– providing independent advocacy services to vulnerable people, including people with learning disabilities and mental health needs.

During 6 years as the Manager of the NNAA the organisation achieved Investors in People status and the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2005.

I have also managed sheltered housing projects across Leicestershire and Lincolnshire for Anchor Trust and worked for 7 years as Service Manager for the London Borough of Redbridge Housing Advice, Housing register, Homelessness, and House Purchase and Renovation Grants service.

On a voluntary basis I have worked with The Samaritans, was part of the team that developed the Parent Partnership Service in Nottinghamshire in the early nineties.

Most importantly I am a family carer and have over 20 years experience of caring for people who are vulnerable.