

Criteria and Advocacy Pathway

The Care Act introduces principles of wellbeing and prevention and the recognition that an individual, their family and/or carer must be enabled to make decisions regarding their own care.

The Care Act places a new duty on local authorities to provide access to independent advocacy to those who would have substantial difficulty in being involved in care and support 'processes' and have no appropriate or available individual(s) who can support their involvement, namely:

- Adults with care and support needs
- Carers with support needs
- Adult carers of a young people in transition

The Care Act extends the right for eligible people to have independent advocacy to help them be actively involved in their care and support process, including:

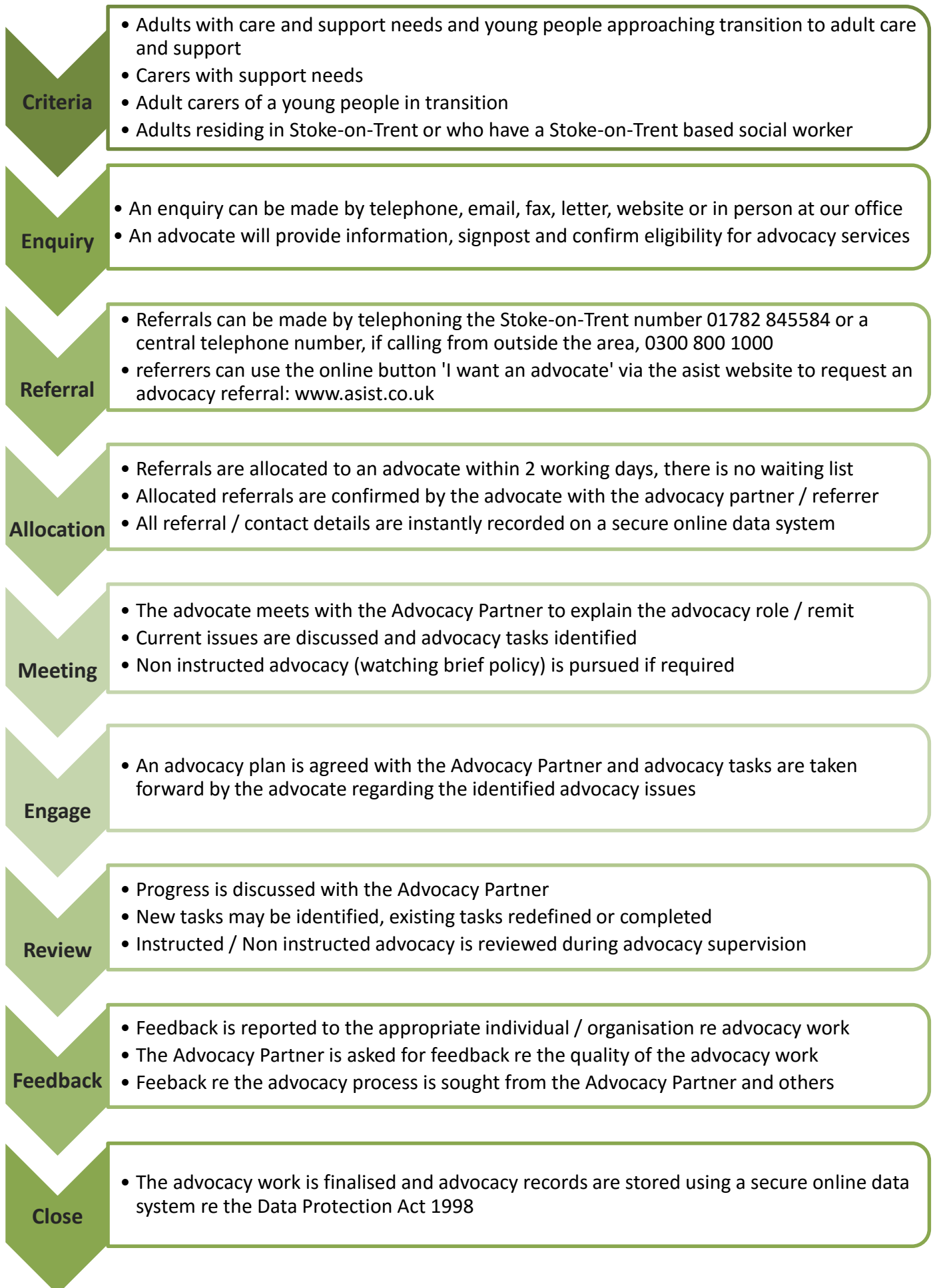
- A needs assessment (including a young person approaching the transition to adult care and support)
- A carer's assessment
- Preparation of a care and support plan (including young persons in transition to adult care and support)
- The preparation of a carer's support plan
- A review of a care and support plan
- A review of a carer's support plan
- A safeguarding enquiry or Safeguarding Adult's Review (SAR).

Advocates work with people to support their active involvement in their care and support process by:

- supporting the person to prepare for their care assessment, review or safeguarding meetings
- helping the person to understand the care and support processes and options available to them
- making sure that the person feels able to give their views and wishes about their care and support needs
- working with the person so that they are able to make their own decisions
- supporting the person, and representing them when appropriate, to challenge decisions made if it is felt that the local authority have not taken into account the person's views, wishes and feelings

Referrals should be made by the Local Authority as soon as it is clear that someone will have substantial difficulty being involved in their care and support processes and no appropriate individual has been identified to support them.

If a referral is not made immediately, perhaps because advocacy was not required at that time, a referral can be made at any stage in the care and support process.



Recognising quality in independent advocacy