



Advocacy and Supporting Decision-Making

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Executive Director Sage Advocacy

About Sage Advocacy

- Sage Advocacy is an independent organisation, operating across Ireland.
- Information, support and advocacy for older people and adults who may be vulnerable.
- In the community, residing in long-term care or healthcare patients.
- Sage Advocacy seeks to promote social inclusion, equality and social justice in all aspects of our work.

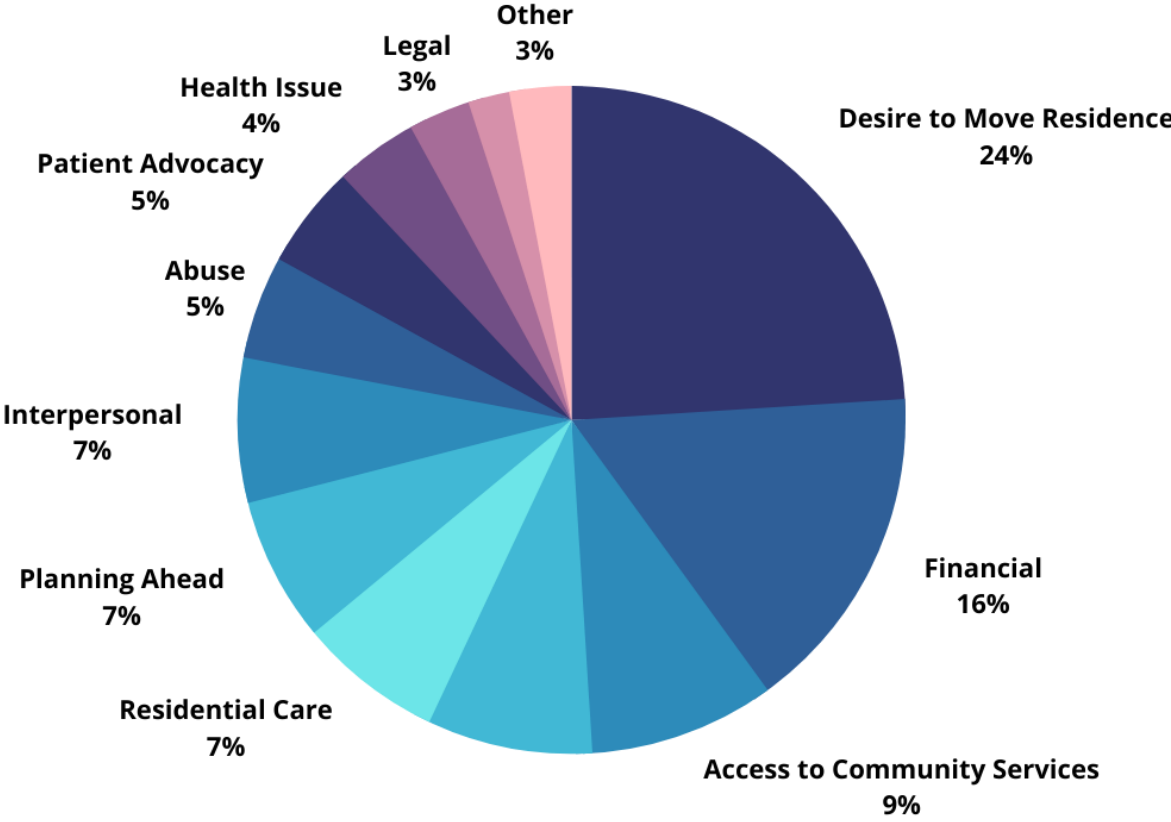
About Sage Advocacy

- Provides an advocacy service across Ireland.
- Information & Support Service.
- Rapid Response Service from 8am to 10pm daily - 1850 71 94 00
- In 2020 we provided direct support through
 - 1248 referrals for advocacy,
 - 1030 information & support calls,
 - 640 rapid response helpline calls
 - Family Forum with over 20,000 engagements.
- Sage Advocacy also uses the learning from its work to advocate for systemic changes.

Quality Standards of Our Work

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1. Respect
 2. Social Justice
 3. Competence and Compassion
 4. Accessibility
 5. Independence
 6. Accountability

Advocacy Issues



Advocacy Issues

- Generalised approach to assessing capacity – instead of issue specific,
- Coercive control resulting in isolation, missing appointments etc.,
- Consent for treatment or the Nursing Home Support Scheme being obtained through coercive control,
- Family members opposing hospital discharge,
- Family occupying person's property,

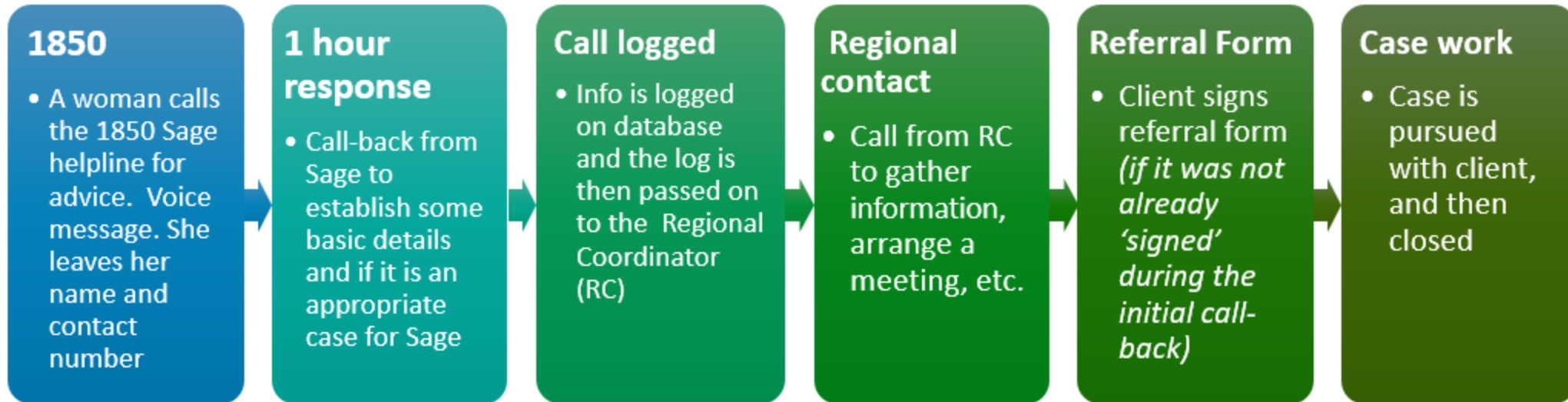
Advocacy Issues

- Family collecting pension / disability allowances and receiving carer's allowance,
- A lack of oversight of agency arrangements,
- Family claiming to be next of kin for the purposes of decision-making,
- Being entitled to UK pension, but not receiving due to dementia and not entitled to Irish pension,
- People under 55 in nursing home environments,

What is Advocacy?

“A process of empowerment of individuals or groups which includes taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests or obtain the services they need. Advocacy can be undertaken by individuals themselves, by their friends and relations, by peers and those who have had similar experiences, and/or by trained volunteers and professionals” (Quality Standards for Support and Advocacy Work with Older People, Sage 2015)

Sage Referral Path



Consent and Assisted Decision-Making

- We work in accordance with the principles set out in the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015.
- We regard every individual as having capacity until proven otherwise.
- Consent from an individual is always sought.
- We will never assume that a person does not have the capacity to give or withhold consent.

Non-instructed Advocacy (NIA)

- NIA, also called rights safeguarding support and advocacy arises where it is not possible to ascertain what a person's wishes are, or to obtain consent or a refusal of consent,
- Sage Advocacy applies the following criteria
 - A person's basic human rights or legal rights are being infringed;
 - The person's quality of life is being impacted on negatively;
 - There is a risk of harm to the person's health, safety or wellbeing;
 - There is alleged or suspected abuse of any kind;
 - Whether or not benefits are likely to accrue from our intervention;

Non-instructed Advocacy (NIA)

- In all non-instructed advocacy cases, an approach or combination of approaches will be taken to ascertain a person's will and preference,
- A case management group was established in Sage Advocacy to provide oversight in all non-instructed advocacy cases,
- The provisions of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015; the Mental Health Act 2001 and safeguarding and deprivation of liberty legislation (once these have been enacted) are / will be followed.

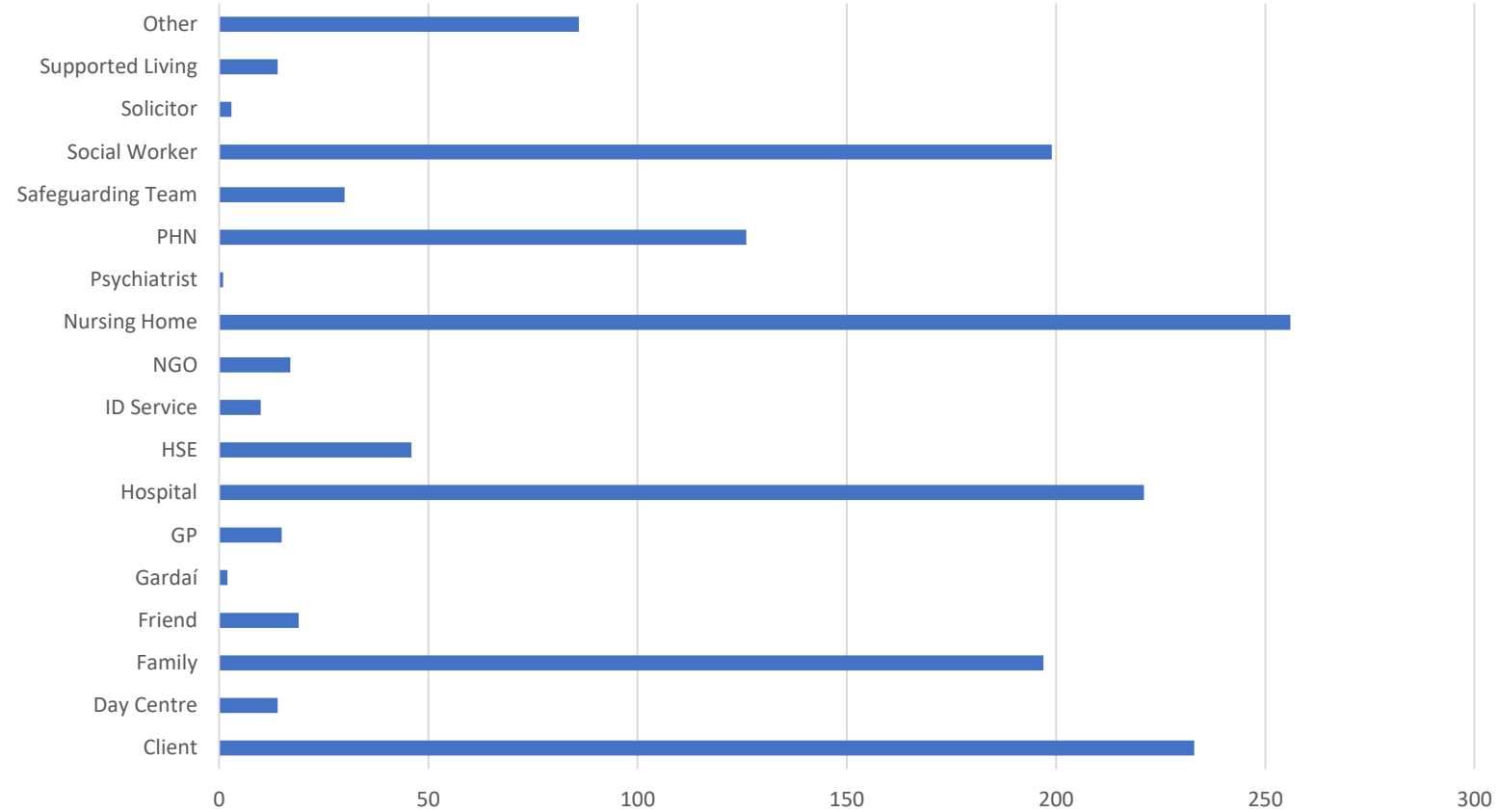
Outcomes

- Person who was in inappropriate unit (dementia) was supported by an advocate to ask for an assessment by geriatrician and proper diagnosis and return home.
- Support to apply for and access home care packages.
- Support to move from county council accommodation into a supported living accommodation.
- Prospect of ward of court proceedings being avoided following involvement of advocate.
- Advocate supporting Fair Deal application when no family involved.

Outcomes

- Advocate involvement in multi-disciplinary meetings meaning that the person's voice is heard resulting in access to home support.
- Through work of advocate attention was drawn to financial abuse and agency arrangement reviewed.
- Supporting individual without PPS number to access state supports.
- Sage Advocate supporting individual to create an enduring power of attorney.
- Sage Advocacy giving a “voice” to an individual whose behaviour challenges.

WHO MADE FIRST CONTACT WITH SAGE?



Contact us

sage advocacy

info@sageadvocacy.ie

(01) 536 7330 - 09:00 - 17:00; Monday-Friday

1850 71 94 00 - Rapid Response Service; 8am – 10pm Daily, where urgent support is needed.