

Meeting 2 – 8th September 2021

The second Independent Senior Advocate (ISA) Co-Production Group meeting focused primarily on exploring the experience and personal qualities Group members felt that people in the ISA role should have. These discussions were broken into two sections:

- Role descriptor, including draft job description
 - Summary of the role
 - Location/working environment
 - What does the role involve?
 - General duties and responsibilities as an Independent Senior Advocate
- ISA person specification including training and experience required
 - Experience (Essential and desirable)
 - Skills and abilities (Essential and desirable)
 - Training and qualifications (Essential and desirable)
 - Interests (Essential and desirable)
 - Personal qualities (Essential and desirable)

During these discussions, the Group were able to agree several key attributes that would be essential for the ISA role:

- The ISA must be an **excellent communicator** with the ability to articulate complex problems clearly and effectively
- The ISA must be able to work **flexibly** and at short notice
- The ISA must also have at least a basic **understanding of maternity services** in their area
- The ISA must have demonstrable **experience working in an advocacy role**, with the ability to think strategically
- The ISA must **not be a voluntary position** or utilise volunteers

There was extended discussion amongst Group members, and many talking points in the breakout discussions required further examination. For example:

- Where the role shall be housed?
- Whether the ISA should be a clinician?
- Is the role an individual or a team?