

The National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities

National Manager: Louise Loughlin



About the National Advocacy Service

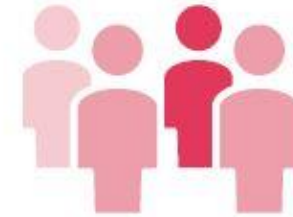
- Funded and supported by the Citizens Information Board
- Meets their statutory obligation to provide an advocacy service for people with disabilities
- Fully professional, independent, free and confidential service
- 50 paid, professional staff

Advocacy support work 2017



852

Total people engaged with representative advocacy in 2017



3628



2776

Initial engagement work (information, one-off intervention, arms-length support)

About the National Advocacy Service

Issue categories in 2017



Housing
48%



Health
19%



Justice
13%



Court cases related to
parenting with a disability
13%



Birth, Family
& Relationships
8%



Social Welfare
7%



Money & Tax
7%

NAS and Assisted Decision-Making

- NAS practises the Guiding Principles of the ADM in our work
- Advocates ensure that the will and preferences of individuals are heard
- Emphasis on facilitating different communication styles

Self-Advocacy and Independent Advocacy

Pete Jones and Patty O'Malley



Pete Jones: How bad it got

- A stroke in 2007 and have Aphasia
- In hospital for 3 weeks
- Lost power on right side
- Eyes failed to focus
- Balance poor
- Could not recognise words, numbers, signs or say them, understand them
- Poor insight into the impact of the stroke, others were acting odd not me!!!

What is Aphasia?

- An acquired impairment of language, can be mild, moderate or severe
- Can impact on production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write
- Due to injury to the brain-most commonly from a stroke, particularly in older individuals.
- It does not affect intelligence.

I had to relearn almost everything...



A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

...reading,
writing,
sums and
lots more

Subtraction

5	3	7
-3	-1	-5
<hr/>		

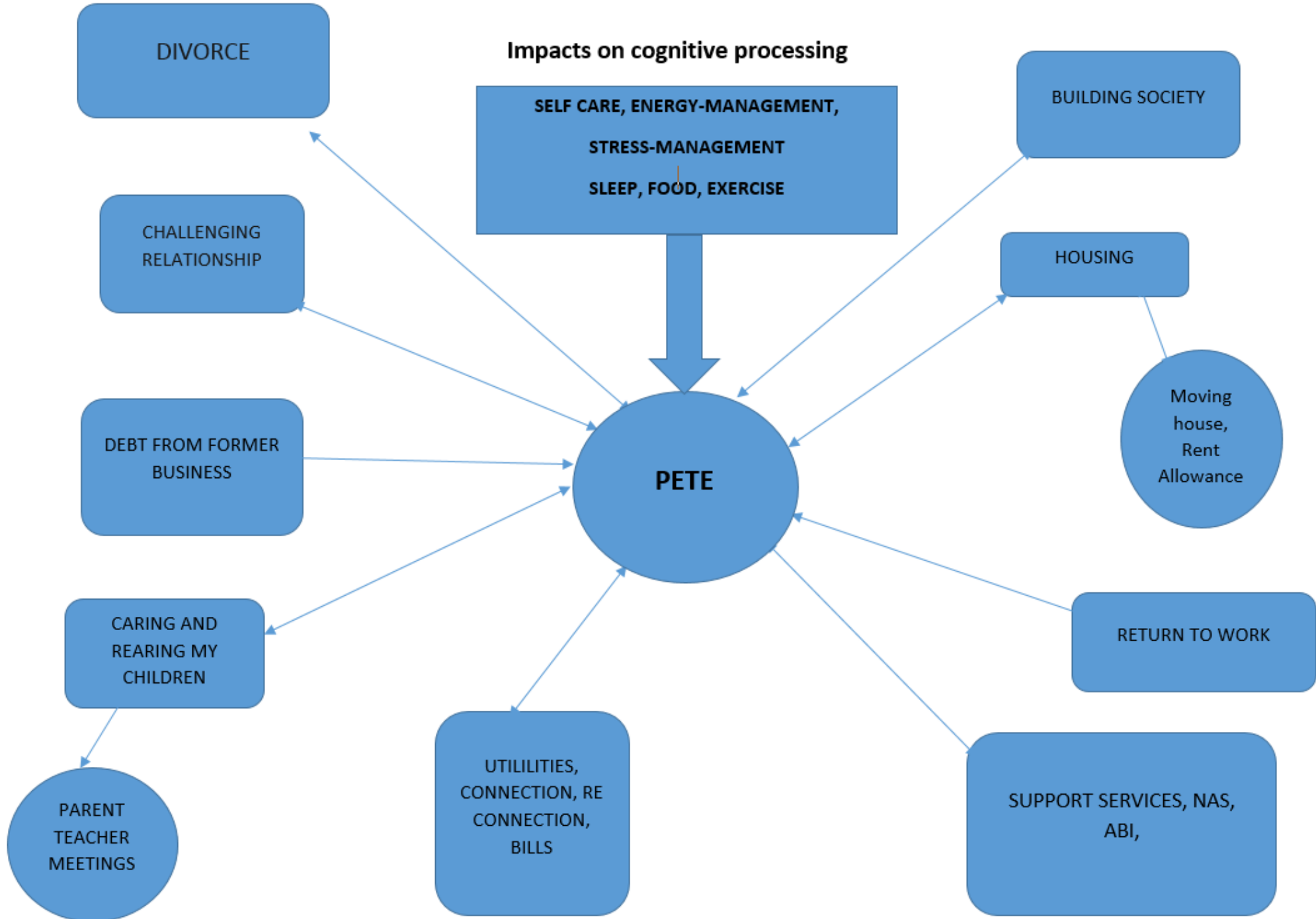


The road to recovery

- Everything inside my head, couldn't get it out
- One year of rehab everyday with S&L Therapist in Loughlinstown Hospital
- Then 2 years of rehab everyday with S&L Therapist in Baggot Street Hospital
- Needed to learn to say the alphabet, to count, recognise, road signs,
- Like learning a new language
- Motivations: recovery and returning to parenting my boys
- Started work with Acquired Brain Injury; externalising memory

My life today, 11 years on

- I am a very active parent
- I have a part-time job I love
- I live alone in the community expect when my boys stay over
- I drive, I cook, I go to the gym
- I clean up my elderly neighbours' gardens and get paid in apple tarts!!
- I have good friends
- I have a full life and am content



Advice to others on communication

Home address
Phone number

To whom it may concern,

Just so you know: I had a stroke in 2007, a CVA (cerebrovascular accident) and as a result I have Aphasia.

While Aphasia can be experienced as mild, moderate or severe, I have been just mildly effected though tiredness and stress can make communication a little more difficult for me.

I have been through rehabilitation and generally have recovered well.

However, the stroke has left me with some deficits in processing information. My speech and language was effected, namely in receptive language, particularly in understanding what the other person might be saying to me.

I have learned what works for me; 1-to-1 or 2-to-1 meetings are good.

Advice on communication, continued

I can ask people to repeat their message or slow down until I understand what is being said.

The written word also works well, including e-mail and text, with short sentences and bullet points; communication by text is my first choice, my mobile number is above.

I can go through messages at my own pace.

If you want to e-mail me, my address is Email@email.com

I can have difficulties in being in group settings, having to process information and conversation from different sources; it stresses and fatigues me easily.

Now that you know....let the chat begin!!!!

Regards,

Pete Jones

Advice to solicitor and barrister for court process

- The ideal is things be in writing
- I work best when I can use documents to prompt me, e.g. list/calendar of access dates
- One short question at a time
- One instruction/piece of information requested of me; check I understand it and give me time to respond with the information, e.g. find it in a file, in my memory
- DON'T assume YES means I understand; PLEASE CHECK
- Stress impacts my ability to process and respond
- 30 minutes of cross examination and then a 15 minute rest

Examples of work done with advocate

- **Chronology EXAMPLE**
- **Feb 1997:** Married
- **Nov 2000:** £XXXXXX Deposit paid on XXXXXXXXXX, Credit Union Account took out loan for XXXXXXXX with the Credit Union *
Purchase Price/Value of Property XXXXXXXX Loan amount XXXXXXXX with XXXXXXXX later XXXXXXXX.
- (* **Please note: I am still paying off that loan from the Credit Union as of May 2017)**

Examples of work done with advocate cont.

- I paid a lot of money from my bank account and credit union towards the house and used my skills to add value to the house eg,
- did the drive
- floored the whole attic
- decorated the house top-to-bottom
- designed, planned and built the extension, put in Velux windows
- landscaped the back garden etc

18th June 2014

Dear Pete,

These are the points from today's meeting with Xxx Xxxxxxxx of the XXXXXX Building Society.

- Though you are living away from the family home, you are equally responsible for the mortgage.
- Since October 2013, PRIVATE INFORMATION OF ANOTHER REMOVED
- In the last few days, PRIVATE INFORMATION OF ANOTHER REMOVED
- The building society reached a decision that they will offer a long-term solution on the basis of PRIVATE INFORMATION OF ANOTHER REMOVED

Examples of work with the advocate

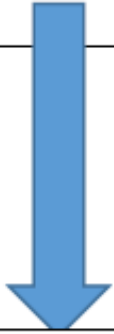
What I want from divorce agreement:

- To sell the house... CONTENT REMOVED
- To divide the proceeds CONTENT REMOVED
- Don't forget; PRIVATE INFORMATION OF ANOTHER REMOVED

- PRIVATE INFORMATION OF ANOTHER REMOVED

THE RENT SUPPLEMENT

'The Old System'



Questions????

Question: If you look for the increase from the Welfare Dept in the Rent that David is looking for, will it trigger a review and them asking you to apply for the HAP?

Question: should you pay the increase yourself, directly into David?

2 STEP PROCESS, You have the assessment and then apply for the HAP

Step (1)

HOUSING ASSESMENT

- (a) 1-bedroom
- (b) 3-bedroom



You will be on the list for long-term accommodation, either 1-bedroom or 3-bedroom



Step (2)

HOUSING ACCOMOATION PAYMENT (HAP)

- (a) 1 bedroom subsidy = €660
- (b) 3 bedroom subsidy= Same as now

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