

## Advocate Scheme



The Community Services Advocate Scheme runs alongside the Watchdog Scheme. The Advocate Scheme is for any Watchdog who has some extra time to spare to help raise the profile of Community Services and the work of Trading Standards.

All potential Advocates are taken through an induction detailing what the Scheme is about and what it can offer. Upon becoming an Advocate you will have the opportunity to choose from a range of roles which include:

- Organise and attend community events and libraries to hand out information packs and raise awareness on topics such as scams, rogue traders and consumer advice.
- Raise awareness of the Watchdog Scheme.
- Help with specific Trading Standards Projects. For example Advocates helped with a food enforcement day and were instrumental in the prosecution of a well known supermarket for selling food passed its use-by date.
- Mentor new Watchdogs and Advocates.

The Scheme is very flexible as we do not ask Advocates to commit to a certain number of hours volunteering. You are free to choose which roles you would prefer and to provide as little or as much time as you can spare.

All required training is provided free of charge and any travel expenses incurred will be reimbursed.

We currently have over 600 Watchdogs and 90 Advocates. If you think you would like to be part of the scheme or would just like some further information, please contact the Community Development Team on 01785 277 835.