



### Sue Peters - Independent Advocate/ Statutory Care Advisor at HMCS Ltd

Sue worked in local government at senior level for 17 years, both in housing and social services. As part of a county multi-agency senior management team she was involved in establishing procedures and policies following the introduction of the Children Act 1989 and the NHS Community Care Act 1990. Following a short career break Sue moved into the voluntary sector as manager of the Hull and East Yorkshire Advocacy Forum, supporting people in educational appeals, mental health tribunals, judicial reviews and ombudsman complaints. She then moved to Lincolnshire to manage one of the first direct payment support services, working closely with Social Services to ensure that assessments reflected needs and instigating review procedures. Initially only for the PD client group, Sue was also part of a national working group campaigning for direct payments to be extended to the learning disability and children client groups.

In 2000 Sue became an associate of Expert Witness Care UK, undertaking immediate needs reports and generic case management. In 2005 Sue established HCMS Ltd., specialising in advocacy and intervention casework. Sue strongly believes that by facilitating statutory assessments and implementing at an early stage care regimes funded from statutory sources, or a combination of statutory/private care, rehabilitation can be promoted, the burden on the family eased and future care reports will be based on realistic assessments of the actual provision in place. Increasingly Sue has become involved in negotiating partnership arrangements with statutory authorities, with top-up provision from a third party to ensure that the entirety of needs are met. Sue's caseload is split 25% defendant, 15% claimant and 60% joint instruction.

Sue is also an experienced trainer and regularly provides training for case managers, insurers, solicitors and care professionals on all aspects of statutory provision.