

Involving your Local Council



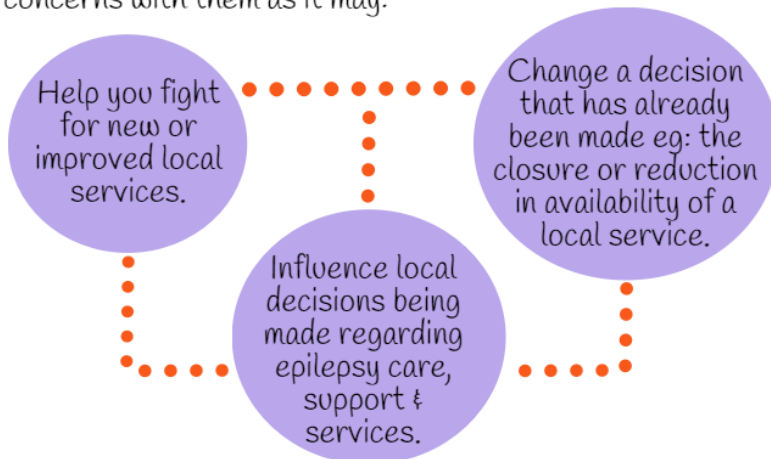
Your Local Council (or Local Authority) helps provide important services to those with long term conditions such as epilepsy.

Councils are run by elected councillors who work together to make decisions on behalf of their local community (a bit like a small scale Parliament).



Your Local Council

Sometimes it can be a good idea to involve your local council in campaigns or to raise awareness of specific local concerns with them as it may:



Councils will be structured in one of two ways:

- Two-tier systems – the responsibilities are divided between district & county councils
- Unitary authorities – responsible for providing all local services.

You can find out details about your local council via:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council>

What can Local Councils do?

Your local Councillor(s) have a duty to represent your views within the council & notify relevant council staff of the issues you raise.

Getting councillors involved in a SUDEP Action campaign can help put pressure on the local council and raise awareness locally.

You can find your local Councillor(s) via <https://www.gov.uk> (search for 'local councillor') or by visiting your local council's website. Alternatively, give them a call.

Tip:

If you want to contact your council about a specific issue, visit their website to find out as much information as you can about their past decisions & involvement with that issue. A search of the key words should help, if not contact them with your enquiry.

Your Councillor(s) can:

Contact relevant council departments about your issue/campaign.

Raise your concern to the relevant Cabinet Minister (those above councillors).

Refer your issue/campaign to a council committee for discussion – they can look into past decisions to decide on any next steps.

Raise the issue at a full council meeting (but this may take longer to happen).

Other ways to include your Local Council



Attend a council meeting

Some council meetings allow the local public to attend. You may get a chance to speak to local councillors before/after & if you contact them in advance, you may get the chance to express your views at the meeting.

Some meetings this might apply to are : Full council meetings, Committee meetings & Cabinet meetings.



Organise a lobby

If there is a group of people in your local area who want to support a campaign or local issue, you could arrange to meet your councillors at the same time. Doing this means they hear all views at once which can be powerful.

BUT you must arrange this with your local council in advance as there are strict rules on lobbying.

Tip:

Councillors of opposition parties can be keen to question decisions of the current party in charge. Sometimes you can use this to your advantage when campaigning for local change.

For more information about SUDEP Action and our current campaigns visit:

www.sudep.org



SUDEP Action 
Making every epilepsy death count

SUDEP Action
SCOTLAND 

SUDEP Action & SUDEP Action Scotland are the working names of Epilepsy Bereaved
Registered charity 1050459 (England & Wales), SC045208 (Scotland).