

## Case study 2

### Joan — Michael's wife

Michael and I are both social workers so communication is very important in our work. Michael had a stroke six months ago and now has aphasia, this means he has difficulty finding words and having conversations. He is very frustrated as he knows what he wants to say but is unable to find the words.

After six months in hospital Michael is physically able to do many more things but his speech remains a huge problem.

It was great when he came home but now I understand that it's not that simple. I cope with everything; the paperwork, bills, finances, shopping and our two teenage boys who have had to cope with the change in their Dad. Our income has dropped; our lifestyle has changed, it's almost impossible to talk to Michael about the boys and the usual teenage issues. Michael is desperate to speak again and be part of the family again.

They say he no longer needs physiotherapy or speech therapy and I feel at my wits end — life has changed so much for all of us.

#### **Questions for discussion**

- Who would you advocate for?
- What are the advocacy issues?