


# Independent advocacy

supports, defends and promotes:

**Human Rights**

**Equality**

**Health and  
Well-being**



Our advocacy partners  
are your constituents

## Independent advocacy changes lives for the better

Independent advocacy helps marginalised people have a stronger voice and as much control as possible over their own lives. It is directed by the needs, views and wishes of the people who use it, always putting them first.

Independent advocacy is completely separate from statutory organisations and other service providers. This ensures that independent advocates are as free as possible from conflicts of interest.

Individual independent advocacy helps people to stay engaged with services and get the right support, in the right ways, at the right times, as well as preventing situations from escalating and crises developing.

Collective independent advocacy enables groups of people to come together and have a positive and far-reaching influence on the design and delivery of policy, legislation and service delivery.

### About SIAA

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is the voice of the Scottish independent advocacy movement. SIAA promotes, supports and defends independent advocacy. We want independent advocacy to be available to any person in Scotland who needs it.

## Our Manifesto

### Improved access to independent advocacy

- People with a statutory right to independent advocacy are able to access it when they need it, every time they need it
- Access to independent advocacy is increased for people who are marginalised and discriminated against, but who do not have a statutory right
- Different types of advocacy – individual and collective – are available to meet different needs at different times

### Robust, strategic provision of independent advocacy

- Increased funding to enhance quality, address critical areas of unmet need and allow preventive work rather than crisis management
- Open, transparent contracting and procurement processes with minimum three-year funding cycles
- Independent advocacy users involved in the planning, procurement, delivery and review of services

### Independent advocacy at the heart of policy making

- Policy makers understand the importance of the independence of independent advocacy
- The role of independent advocacy in helping people attain their rights is recognised, with independent advocacy embedded within the wider human rights framework and new legislation
- Assurances from the Scottish Government that relevant future legislation will always consider including a right to access independent advocacy
- Government accountability around planning for independent advocacy



## Human rights:

Independent advocacy helps people to know about their human rights and ensure they are upheld.

*"She knew my rights and the law. The advocacy worker became my voice".*

*"The advocacy worker helped me to understand my rights and helped with my mental health wellbeing. Having a third party involved was a great help".*

## Equality:

Independent advocacy helps to shift power balances, giving people more control over their lives and increasing levels of fairness and equality.

*"The advocacy worker made sure I got my say and made sure I was included".*

*"[Independent advocacy] made me feel more confident and ambitious".*

## Health and well-being:

Independent advocacy helps people to participate in decisions, leading to improved confidence and self-esteem and better outcomes for both physical and mental health.

*"In answer to the question if my wellbeing has improved - it has improved tremendously".*

*"It made me feel better that I had someone beside me, someone in my corner".*



Promoting  Supporting  Defending

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