



The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Annual Report 2009

Director's Report

In early 2008 I was asked to join the Mental Health Act Review Group, which was led by Professor Jim McManus, to provide an independent advocacy perspective. The report produced by the group is due to be published soon.

The SIAA Advocacy Map is now complete and provides an excellent overview of the advocacy movement across Scotland. This document illustrates differences in funding, the different groups the organisations support as well the all important gaps in advocacy provision. We plan to produce an annual update to help us track the changes in the advocacy movement.

We were awarded funding from Comic Relief initially in 2007 for two years, for Elder Abuse development work. This has now been renewed for a further two years and will mean that we can continue with this much needed project.

As part of our wider agenda to improve the quality of advocacy we have produced *Non-Instructed Advocacy Guidelines* and *Elder Abuse Advocacy Guidelines*. These latest documents address issues of good practice and transparency and ultimately will enable advocacy organisations to better meet the needs of the people they support.

With help from members of the working group we have made significant progress on the development of an Evaluation Framework that can be used by all advocacy organisations. The Framework will be published later this year.

Also, we are working in partnership with the Stroke Association to help develop independent Advocacy Pilots for people affected by Stroke. The Stroke Association have decided to work with Advocacy Highland, Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service and Partners in Advocacy to help these organisations build their capacity to work with people affected by stroke. The SIAA will provide the organisations with support regarding advocacy practice and systems for monitoring.

We have also been successful in securing funding from the Scottish Government Drug Policy Unit to capture information about how many people with drug issues are accessing independent advocacy. The aim of this project is for the SIAA to support advocacy organisations to better meet the needs of people who have drug issues.

Throughout the past year we have been involved with the Adult Support & Protection Act Implementation Group ensuring that independent advocacy is included in the ASP *Code of Practice*. Also, we secured funding to design and deliver training on the Act to advocacy organisations. We also delivered Advocacy Awareness Training to professionals working with the new legislation, who would be coming into contact with advocates.

During the year ahead we will update the Guide for Commissioners, publish the Evaluation Framework and complete the work on complaints about advocacy.

Shaben Begum

Chair's Report

One of the challenges and joys of being Chair of such a vibrant organisation as the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is to condense its many achievements of the previous year into a manageable format that neither dilutes the importance nor significance of what has been accomplished. Listing the work of the SIAA throughout 2008–2009 fails to capture the direct effect that the SIAA is having in supporting organisations to support individuals and groups. It is the privileged position of the SIAA to promote, support and defend independent advocacy organisations throughout Scotland and it does this in a variety of ways. At this year's AGM, two highly needed documents will be launched; the *Non-Instructed Advocacy Guidelines* and the *Elder Abuse Advocacy Guidelines*. Both documents speak to the increasing difficulties that independent advocacy organisations face in navigating their way through issues which are core to being involved in these specialist areas of independent advocacy. That there is an organisation such as the SIAA that can expend its resources to provide guidance, with the intention of promoting best practice, is what allows for a robust and healthy independent advocacy movement.

What makes these documents exceptional though, and helps to reflect the vitality of the movement, is the participative manner in which they were created. The membership of the SIAA, through the working groups, donated their expertise, their experience, their wisdom to writing these documents. That the documents are ready to be launched and to affect the way in which organisations may work is to the credit of the members of these working groups and heartfelt thanks must be expressed at their incredible contribution and effort.

This work is supported and driven by the enthusiastic staff of the SIAA and thanks are due to them for ensuring that all the disparate strands of these projects are brought together into a neat package. Thanks to the Director of the SIAA, Shaben Begum, for her commitment and passion to the vision of the organisation. The valued contributions of those members of the SIAA team who have moved on are also recognised.

We must also express our gratitude to all our funders who have provided for the SIAA to deliver such interesting and helpful work. The continued support of the Scottish Government has been invaluable in the flourishing success of the SIAA and our thanks to them. Immense thanks to all the Board members, past and present, who have freely given of their time to provide leadership to the SIAA. Their voluntary participation in helping to shape the vision of the SIAA is owed a huge debt of gratitude. Particular thanks must be given to my predecessors Paul Thomas and Linda Bailey, not only for keeping the seat warm, but for their Herculean effort in performing the many duties as Chair. The Board recognises its responsibility in ensuring that there is good governance and effective leadership of the SIAA. We are steadfast in our resolve to improving our practices and will continue to do so throughout the next year. The Board is also aware of how valuable to the success of the SIAA that the membership is and hope to engage more with members

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throughout the year. We welcome the opportunity to have an open dialogue with the membership and learn from its experience.

Working closely with its members, the SIAA will ensure that independent advocacy in Scotland is vigorously promoted, supported and defended so that independent advocacy organisations may thrive and be able to provide the fantastic support that they do.

Damian Sherwood

Treasurer's Report

We would like to extend our thanks to the **Scottish Government Health & Wellbeing Directorate** for our core funding. We thank the **Scottish Government Adult Support & Protection Unit** for funding the ASP project. We also thank **Comic Relief** for their continued support of the Elder Abuse Project.

The SIAA accounts have been audited by Chiene & Tait and they found our accounts for 2008–2009 to be a true review of our financial affairs to the end of March 2009. They found that all funding has been used appropriately to further the aims of the organisation. The accounts show that we received a total income of £293,015. Our expenditure was £329,173. A summary of our income and expenditure is included in this Annual Report. Full copies of our accounts can be obtained from our office on request.

Billy Forbes

Board Members 2008–2009

Thanks are extended to all Board members for their work over this year.

Chair	Damian Sherwood	Dundee independent Advocacy Support
Vice Chair	Dennis McGinnigal	You First Advocacy
Treasurer	Billy Forbes	<i>Co-opted member</i>
	Hazel Anderson	Advocacy Shetland
	Linda Bailey	Angus Independent Advocacy
	Sam Cairns	EqualSay (<i>resigned January 2009</i>)
	John Dow	The Today Group
	Moya Sweeney	Inverclyde Advocacy
	Paul Thomas	People's Advocacy Service (<i>resigned July 2009</i>)

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 March 2008	2009	2008
Income	£	£
Grants	287,635	337,542
Interest	2,755	5,218
Membership	2,625	1,933
Training	—	3,995
Other	—	4,543
Total	293,015	353,231
Expenditure		
Staff costs	185,545	184,594
Rent and utilities	17,878	19,480
Waste and recycling	420	258
Insurance	557	547
Stationery and postage	7,629	4,056
Office equipment	—	1,533
Publicity DVD & AGM costs	46,538	50,027
Repairs and maintenance	1,117	235
Bank charges	790	867
Cleaning	1,872	932
Subscriptions	487	113
Professional fees	16,193	—
Audit fee	4,030	2,115
Training and conference	26,579	11,233
Staff expenses	2,910	3,584
Board expenses	7,439	4,626
Consultant fees	25	300
Depreciation	1,498	1,610
Provisions	—	167
Working groups	—	22
IT costs	5,717	4,048
Internet costs	1,301	1,011
Other costs	648	220
Total	329,173	291,578
(Deficit)/Surplus	(36,158)	61,653

Over the past year the SIAA has continued our involvement in the following groups: The Participation Standards Development Group has been responsible for developing a consistent method for members of the public to be involved in the NHS 🇬🇧 The Principles into Practice Steering Group held its first awards conference in March 🇬🇧 We have helped The Scottish Legal Aid Board with the development of a survey regarding advocates helping clients to access lawyers 🇬🇧 The Cross Party Group on Mental Health 🇬🇧 The Cross Party Group on Carers 🇬🇧 The Mental Health Tribunal Scotland User & Carer Reference Group 🇬🇧 The Older Peoples' Advocacy Alliance 🇬🇧 The Parenting Network 🇬🇧 The Quality Measurement Framework Project — UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity 🇬🇧 The Independent Living Centres 🇬🇧 The Mental Health & Deafness Task Group 🇬🇧 The SCVO Intermediaries Network 🇬🇧 The Quality Improvement Scotland — Integrated Care Pathways and the Public Involvement Sub Group 🇬🇧 The Older Peoples' Policy Forum

Our Mission Statement

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance promotes, supports and defends the principles and practice of independent advocacy across Scotland. It does this by:

- Providing a strong national voice for independent advocacy organisations;
- Supporting the growth of existing independent advocacy organisations;
- Promoting the development of new independent advocacy organisations;
- Encouraging existing advocacy organisations towards independence.



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