



**The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Annual Report 2010**

Director's Report

Over the last year there has been a wide range of activities that the SIAA has been involved in, the main focus for the year has been on quality and we have worked hard with our member organisations to improve quality within the movement.

We launched a number of documents;

Non instructed Advocacy Guidelines

This is a companion to the *Principles & Standards for Independent Advocacy* and the *Associated Code of Practice*.

Elder Abuse Advocacy Guidelines

This is a further companion guide and was produced as part of the Elder Abuse Project. Both documents were launched at the 2009 AGM.

Independent Advocacy: An Evaluation Framework

This was the culmination of two years of work by the Evaluation Framework Working Group. It complements the other documents produced over the previous years and as with all SIAA documents covers all the different types of advocacy.

Independent Advocacy: A Guide for Commissioners

This document updates the Scottish Executive *Guide for Commissioners* (2000) and the *Supplement* (2001). This guide revises, updates and builds on the guidance on commissioning independent advocacy contained in these documents. The revisions reflect the new legislation which includes access to independent advocacy and the updated *Principles and Standards for Independent Advocacy* and associated *Code of Practice*. Both of these documents were launched at an event in February 2010. The *Evaluation Framework* and the *Guide for Commissioners* complete the suite of documents that cover all aspects of commissioning, developing, delivering and evaluating all the different types of independent advocacy.

We worked to broaden access to independent advocacy with;

The Stroke Association Scotland

We supported the running of three pilot projects delivering independent advocacy to those affected by stroke. This included the production of *A Review of Literature Relating to Independent Advocacy and Survivors of Stroke*.

Scottish Government Drug Policy Unit

We conducted a survey of Scottish advocacy organisations to identify existing advocacy provision and any barriers to accessing advocacy for people with problem drug use. A report on this, entitled *Available for All* will be published recommending improved access to independent advocacy nationally for those with problem drug use.

The year ahead

The Quality Assurance Working Group

The work of this group will continue and will be influenced by the decisions the Scottish advocacy movement makes regarding how best to pursue the quality agenda.

Social Return On Investment

We are planning subsidised training on Social Return On Investment for later this year. This will equip advocacy organisations to effectively measure and better demonstrate the impact of the work that they do.

Mental Health Tribunal Scotland

We are in the process of producing a Code of Practice for Independent Advocates attending Mental Health Tribunal hearings. This document will clarify the role of the advocate to service users, Named Persons, lawyers, panel members, independent advocates, Responsible Medical Officers, Mental Health Officers and others involved in hearings.

Map of Advocacy Across Scotland 2009–10

We are in the process of producing the latest edition of the Map. This document tracks the growth and development of the advocacy movement as well as highlighting areas of concern such as the gaps in provision.

Work with Commissioners

The Scottish Government Health Department has funded the SIAA to work with NHS Boards and Local Authorities. The aim of this project is to provide advocacy commissioners with advice and assistance in undertaking a needs assessment and the development of advocacy plans to ensure that gaps in provision are addressed.



“We look forward to continuing to work closely with our colleagues in the advocacy movement to develop, grow and strengthen independent advocacy.”

(Director's Report continued)

Strategic Plan

We are working with external consultants to develop a strategic plan that will take us into the next 5 years with a clear vision for the development and growth of the SIAA.

Meeting with Advocacy Organisations

We are going through a process of meeting with every advocacy organisation; we want to hear about local issues, local advocacy provision and gaps, issues around accessibility to independent advocacy and what would be most helpful for the SIAA to work on. From the information gathered we aim to produce an Advocacy Manifesto before the 2011 Scottish elections.

Scottish Drug Recovery Consortium

Following the publication of the report *Available for All* we look forward to working with the Scottish Drug Recovery Consortium. The report makes 7 key recommendations including that independent advocacy should be available for those with problem drug use.

Scottish Prisons Network

The SIAA has been campaigning for access to independent advocacy to be made universally available to people in prisons. For those prisoners with mental health problems and/or learning disabilities there is a statutory right which is not being met. Responsibility for health care for prisoners in Scotland will pass to the local NHS Boards and we hope that consideration is being given to ensuring access to independent advocacy in the planned handover. This work is ongoing.

The History of Independent Advocacy

There are a number of independent advocacy organisations that have been operating for almost 20 years in one guise or another. There is little evidence that documents how advocacy has been formally taking place for such a long time. We plan to document the history, growth and evolution of independent advocacy in Scotland.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with our colleagues in the advocacy movement to develop, grow and strengthen independent advocacy. We will continue to try to widen access to advocacy amongst the many groups that currently have a statutory right to independent advocacy but are not able to access it.

Shaben Begum

Chair's Report

I became the Chair of the SIAA in December 2009 and it has been a busy and challenging period for the organisation.

During part of my duties as chair I was involved in a discussion, with a colleague in the wider voluntary sector, where the SIAA was dismissed as simply a trade association. We cannot dispute that the SIAA exists to represent the interests of its' member organisations but the pride I have in meeting so many different people involved in advocacy is that those self same organisations have been set up solely to champion the rights of the people and advocate for and on behalf of individuals who need assistance at difficult times in their lives.

As a board we are determined to do everything that we can to protect and develop independent advocacy not as a means of self preservation for our member organisations but as a means of ensuring that people whose circumstances make them vulnerable can have access to the appropriate support free from any conflict of interests.

The environment in which advocacy services find themselves is a challenging one with public spending reviews, scarcity of trust funding and the uncertainty that has arisen as we await the outcomes of budgetary processes in both central and local government. In my mind the scarcity of resources make it even more imperative that independent advocacy exists to stand up and speak out for the most vulnerable and this aim has underpinned our work this year.

As a board we have worked to ensure that the SIAA is fit for purpose for the years ahead and together we have reviewed policy and procedures, revised governance arrangements and consolidated our relationship with the Scottish Government.

I would like to thank Fiona Montgomery and Sandra Falconer, Scottish Government Health Department, Quality and International Issues Unit and Chiene & Tait, our auditors and Duncan Wallace for their participation and support in this process and of course not forgetting the hard work, involvement and contribution of the staff team of Shaben Begum, Muriel Mowat, Vincent Finney, and Dyann Whitelaw and dedication of the directors for which I am extremely grateful.

All of this has enabled the SIAA to commence the process of developing a Business Plan that reflects the strengths of the past and the opportunities that exist in the future for the movement and together we can ensure that the SIAA continues to be a strong advocate for independent advocacy.

Gordon Thomson

Treasurer's Report

The SIAA is happy to report a positive and stable situation with regard to its finances. Having come through an uncertain year we are now in a more confident position, turning around last year's deficit and securing ongoing funding from the Scottish Government through to 2011. Incoming resources this year were £340,653 with expenditure amounting to £277,403, leaving a year end surplus of £63,250. This security has enabled us to recruit and fill the posts we feel will meet the needs of the organisation in the future.

Along with the work on areas around governance, the board have implemented systems and procedures to ensure efficient financial management of the organisation to meet our legal and corporate responsibilities.

The SIAA would like to acknowledge the financial support from its funding bodies. Comic Relief whose funding over the past 3 years has enabled the organisation to focus on the issues relating to elder abuse. The ongoing support of the Scottish Government to maintain funding levels this year and commit resources for the following year has given the organisation the security and opportunity to develop and plan the focus of the SIAA to ensure it meets the needs of its members and supports the movement across Scotland.

Moira Nicholson

Board Members and Staff 2009–2010

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

Chair	Gordon Thomson	Ceartas
Vice Chair	Will Massaro-Mallinson	EARS Advocacy Service
Treasurer	Moira Nicholson	The Advocacy Project
	Kathy Hamilton	Mental Health Advocacy Project (West Lothian)
	Monica Hunter	People First
	Tina Jordan	HUG/ACUMEN
	Sheilis Mackay	Advocacy Highland
	Keith Maloney	CAPS
	Ann Morton	Patients Advocacy Service
	Brenda Vincent	Equals Advocacy Partnership
	Morag McClurg	AIMS Advocacy (Co-opted member)
Staff	Shaben Begum	Director
	Muriel Mowat	Research and Quality Officer
	Vincent Finney	Elder Abuse Development Officer
	Dyann Whitelaw	Administrator (on maternity leave)
	Lisa Brown	Administrator

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 March 2010	2010	2009
Income	£	£
Grants	337,385	287,635
Interest	487	2,755
Membership	2,114	2,625
Training	655	—
Publications	12	—
Total	340,653	293,015
Expenditure		
Staff costs	129,699	185,545
Rent and utilities	19,020	17,846
Waste and Recycling	648	420
Insurance	564	557
Stationery and postage	6,809	7,629
Office equipment	128	—
Publicity DVD	24,033	41,549
Repairs and renewals	464	1,117
Bank charges	276	790
Cleaning	914	1,872
Subscriptions	605	487
Professional fees	12,056	16,193
Audit fee	2,134	1,974
Accountancy costs	2,209	2,056
AGM and EGM costs	5,540	4,989
Training and conference	6,561	26,579
Staff expenses	4,863	2,910
Board expenses	6,488	7,439
Consultant fees	22,168	25
Depreciation	326	1,498
Pilot project payments	27,000	—
IT and internet costs	4,006	7,018
Other Costs	892	680
Total	277,403	329,173
(Deficit)/Surplus	63,250	(36,158)

Over the past the year we have continued our involvement in the following groups:

Multi Agency Advocacy Group † Principles into Practice Network † Mental Health Act Review Group † Mental Health Tribunal Scotland — user and carer reference group † Mental Health & Deafness Task Group † Mental Health Act Resource Review

We have had contact with: Headway † The Cora Foundation † Scottish Refugee Council † Tourette Scotland † Northern Ireland Commission for Victims and Survivors

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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