

How Independent Advocacy has made a difference in people's lives:

Gail, a young woman with a learning difficulty and limited communication, lived in a care home for 15 years. While living there she sometimes tried to push noisy people away, this led to her being described as aggressive. Her Citizen Advocate, Salma, advocated to get Gail rehoused. She now lives in a house with only three other people and seems happier.



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If you would like this leaflet in a different format, further information about the SIAA or a membership pack please contact us.



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The SIAA Guide to
Citizen Advocacy

What is the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA)?

A membership organisation, devoted to promoting, supporting and defending Independent Advocacy in Scotland.

What do we do?

- Represent advocacy organisations at various levels
- Work as a central agency to gather and distribute information to the membership, and other interested parties
- Raise awareness and understanding of Independent Advocacy across Scotland
- Provide training on Independent Advocacy and related issues.

You can find out about Independent Advocacy in your area by visiting the SIAA website www.siaa.org.uk or by telephoning 0131 260 5380.

Citizen advocacy

- Encourages ordinary citizens to become involved with the welfare of those who might need support in their communities
- Is based on trust between the person being supported and the advocate
- Means that the advocate's loyalty is to the person being supported
- Means that the advocate is not paid
- Means that the advocate will support their partner using their natural skills
- Means that the advocacy relationship will be on a one-to-one basis and long-term.

Other types of advocacy include:

- Collective or group advocacy
- Peer advocacy
- Professional advocacy
- Self advocacy.

What is Independent Advocacy?

- Independent Advocacy is about standing alongside people who are in danger of being ignored
- Independent Advocacy is a process of helping people have their say and increase their confidence
- All forms of Independent Advocacy aim to promote self advocacy in their work and would view this as the ideal form of advocacy.

Independent Advocacy includes:

- Safeguarding people who are vulnerable, discriminated against or whom services find difficult to serve
- Empowering people to express their own needs and make their own decisions
- Enabling people to get information, explore and understand their options, and to make their views and wishes known
- Speaking on behalf of people who are unable to do so for themselves.