

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

*When Marc first started going to the collective advocacy meetings he didn't have the confidence to say anything. Now he works with the other members of the group to get things changed in different ways. He believes that he has come a long way since joining the group.*



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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  
**Collective or Group  
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](http://www.siaa.org.uk) or by telephoning 0131 260 5380.

### Collective or group advocacy

Group or Collective advocacy happens when a group of people who are all facing a common problem get together on a formal basis to support each other over specific issues.

- Individual members of the group may support each other over specific issues
- The group as a whole may campaign on an issue that affects them all.

### The benefits of group or collective advocacy include:

- Reducing an individual's sense of isolation when raising a difficult issue
- A collective voice can be stronger than that of an individual. Groups are more difficult to ignore.

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### Other types of advocacy include:

- Citizen 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.

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### 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.