

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

While a patient in a psychiatric hospital Irene felt that her views were often ignored. Adita, an advocate, began to work with Irene, listening to her and attending meetings with her. Irene then felt that there was someone on her side and at meetings with doctors she felt able to speak up for herself because Adita was there.



Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Melrose House, 69a George Street
Edinburgh, EH2 2JG

Tel: 0131 260 5380
Fax: 0131 260 5381
Email: enquiry@siaa.org.uk
Website: www.siaa.org.uk

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
Professional 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.

Professional advocacy

Independent professional advocacy is provided by both paid and unpaid advocates. It aims:

- to support people to represent their own interests
- to represent the views of individuals if the person is unable to do this themselves
- to provide support on specific issues
- to provide information **not** advice
- to provide short or long term support.

Independent advocates can support several people at any time.

Other types of advocacy include:

- Citizen advocacy
- Collective or group advocacy
- Peer 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.