

Benefits of independent advocacy

Equal

Collective involvement and participation enables people to influence policy, legislation and services that better meet their needs.

Individuals having increased control over their lives and circumstances increases levels of fairness and equality in our society.

Fairer

People who use independent advocacy are more likely to be aware of their rights.

Independent advocacy ensures people's rights are upheld and they get the support they need.

Healthier

Independent advocacy supports people to participate and have more control. Higher levels of participation and control lead to better health outcomes, improved confidence and self-esteem.

When people are involved in decisions about their care and treatment they are more likely to get the best outcomes.



Scottish
**Independent
Advocacy**
Alliance

Independent Advocacy:
Helping make Scotland

Equal Fairer Healthier



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Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Promoting  Supporting  Defending

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Scottish Charity No. SC033576



About SIAA

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is the voice of the Scottish advocacy movement. The SIAA promotes, supports and defends independent advocacy in Scotland. It aims to ensure that independent advocacy is available to any person who needs it in Scotland.

Advocacy changes lives

Independent advocacy helps avoid situations from escalating and crises developing. It helps people get the right support at the right time. Collective advocacy enables people to influence policy, legislation and services.

“**Discovering that what I have to say is valid, that it has value means that I also have value.**”

Shona, mental health collective advocacy group member

“**I can speak up more; my advocate is helping me learn how to stand up and do things for myself.**”

Laura, mental health service user

“**Before my advocate got involved no one listened... they think you are stupid because you are disabled.**”

Callum, older person

“**Life has changed, I can smile again. I don't think I'd be alive without advocacy.**”

Callum, older person

Our manifesto

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance believes that, in order to create a Scotland that is equal and fair, we need to uphold the rights of marginalised people and listen to their views, opinions and voices. To ensure access to independent advocacy current legislation and policy needs to be fully implemented. The right to access independent advocacy needs to be included in relevant future policy and legislation.

SIAA would like to see:

Increased access

- Those with a statutory right to independent advocacy having access to it when they need it.
- Advocacy being available to more people without a statutory right when they need it.
- People having access to different types of advocacy; collective and individual to meet their needs.

Robust provision

- Local needs assessments carried out and strategic plans for advocacy put in place in all LA and NHS Board areas.
- Groups and individuals being involved in planning both locally and nationally.
- All advocacy organisations having a minimum three years funding cycle.

“**People listen better when advocacy is involved.**”
