



is for Advocacy

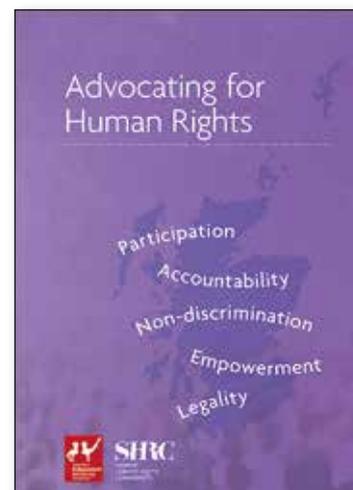
Annual Report
2016-2017



Scottish
Independent
Advocacy
Alliance

Advocating for Human Rights

During the 2016-17 period the SIAA achieved a number of goals including completion of the Advocating for Human Rights Project objectives. This was a partnership with the Scottish Human Rights Commission with the aim of raising awareness amongst advocacy workers about human rights. We jointly developed a training pack and then delivered the training to member organisations across 6 locations in Scotland. There were almost 200 participants for these events. The outcome has been that these advocates are now much more knowledgeable about human rights, more confident when using human rights language and more confident in challenging decisions using the PANEL principles.



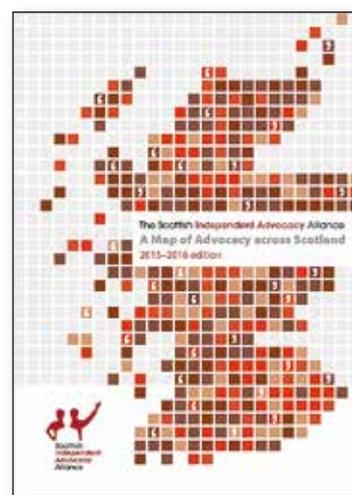
Following on from the training we developed a guide for advocates; *Advocating for Human Rights*. This is a useful reference tool providing the wider context of the application of human rights.

The Advocacy Map 2015-16

Every two years we carry out research to capture quantitative information on how much is spent on advocacy across Scotland. The 2015-16 period saw a 4% cut in funding for advocacy organisations and an increase in demand of 11.5%.

The Map also shows other worrying trends including increased waiting times for people needing an advocate, more people in crisis needing an advocate and fewer numbers of paid and volunteer advocates.

There remain significant gaps in provision including amongst groups who have a legal right to access independent advocacy through mental health legislation. This includes children and young people, people in prison and people in the community who are not in crisis. Often advocates are 'firefighting' rather than working in a preventative role, supporting people to make decisions or have a voice.



Measuring impact of independent advocacy working group

At the annual conference the *Measuring impact of independent advocacy* workshop proved very popular amongst delegates and it was agreed a working group be set up. The group is currently developing a draft framework to be piloted and then shared with the wider membership.

Developing independent advocacy for children and young people

Following the publication of guidance for advocates working with children and young people we have set up a working group with members. This group will look to influence decision makers to support the development of independent advocacy for children and young people.

Working groups

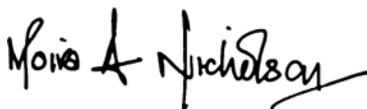
We have been active members of a number of working groups, some of which are listed;

- + Scottish Government – Person Centred Care
- + Scottish Legal Complaints Commission – Consumer Panel
- + National Care Standards Development Group
- + Welfare Advocacy Support Project
- + Mental Health – Person Centred Care Indicators Group
- + Mental Health Act 2015 Code of Practice working group
- + Duty of Candour working group
- + National Care Standards Review Development Group
- + Expert Advisory Group – Centre for Mental Health and Incapacity Law, Rights and Policy Edinburgh Napier University
- + Mental Health Tribunals for Scotland Advocacy Reference Group
- + Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Sounding Board
- + Scottish Mental Health Partnership
- + Scottish Council Voluntary Organisations Policy Committee
- + Mental Welfare Commission Advisory Board
- + Scottish Government Administrative Justice Advisory Group
- + Scottish Council Voluntary Organisations Intermediaries Network
- + Scottish Social Services Commission – Self-directed Support short life working group
- + General Medical Commission UK Advisory Board
- + Department for Work & Pensions PiP Advisory Group Scotland
- + Health & Social Care Alliance Board
- + Anticipatory Care Planning Working Group

These achievements would not be possible without the commitment of the SIAA staff and Board or the continued support of the Scottish Government Healthcare Quality and Improvement Directorate.



Gordon Thomson, Chair



Moira Nicholson, Treasurer



Shaben Begum MBE, Director

The **PANEL** principles:

Participation

Accountability

Non-discrimination and equality

Empowerment *and*

Legality



Scottish
**Independent
Advocacy
Alliance**

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Promoting  Supporting  Defending

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