



is for Advocacy

Annual Report
2017-2018



Scottish
Independent
Advocacy
Alliance

Social Security Bill Campaign

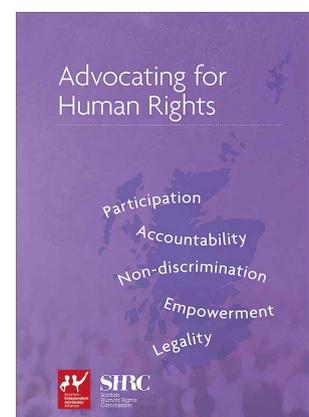
Our work this year has been dominated by our Social Security Bill Campaign, where we galvanised support from a range of stakeholders. During the campaign we worked with MSP from all the political parties, Third Sector organisations, our own members and people who access independent advocacy. We developed an amendment that was designed to ensure anyone applying for social security would be able to access support from an independent advocate. More than 80 organisations added their name in support of the amendment including the opposition parties. There was significant progress at Stage 2 of the Bill with the Scottish Government introducing an amendment giving anyone covered by the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 a right to access independent advocacy in the context of social security. The campaign concluded at Stage 3 with the Scottish Government submitting an amendment giving all disabled people claiming social security entitlements the right to access independent advocacy. This is a huge achievement in legislation marking a significant development in the devolution process for Scotland.

Strategic Advocacy Planning

We continued to work with the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) on their new duty regarding Strategic Advocacy Plans in preparation of Local Authorities, NHS Boards and Integrated Joint Boards being contacted. The MWC asked commissioners and funders to provide information about the independent advocacy they commission in their area and what strategic planning is taking place.

Advocating for Human Rights

The last phase of the joint project with the Scottish Human Rights Commission on increasing awareness and confidence amongst advocacy workers in human rights was completed. We published *Advocating for Human Rights* which followed on from the Advocating for Human Rights training programme. The guide has been widely disseminated amongst advocacy organisations and other interested stakeholders and has been well received.



Principle Refresh

At the 2016 AGM the Board announced a small working group would commence work to refresh the Principles & Standards for Independent Advocacy and Code of Practice and bring them up to date. This was initiated in early 2017 by the SIAA Board Membership Sub Group (MSG) and culminated in members being consulted on the draft Principles and Code of Practice at the 2017 Conference and AGM. Independent facilitators consulted members on the draft and collated views, they produced a report summarising feedback which was published in early 2018. The MSG worked to incorporate the feedback and produced a second draft and consulted members. The MSG plan is to further consult with members, agree a final draft and ratify it by the end of 2018/19 financial year.

Working Groups

Following the 2016 conference and the interest registered amongst members for joining a working group to help develop independent advocacy for children and young people a working group was established. The working group has met and discussed the promotion of independent advocacy for children and young people with mental health issues. This has been a priority for the group because children and young people with a mental health issue have a legal right to access independent advocacy but are unlikely to be able to due to a lack of provision.

The Measuring Impact Working Group was set up following the successful workshop at the 2016 Conference & AGM. Members have worked together to identify outcomes for independent advocacy;

- + Confidence
- + Understanding
- + Influence
- + Information
- + Participation
- + Control
- + Involvement
- + Presence

The SIAA Board and staff met to update the strategic plan, which had been in place for the previous 3 years and was due to expire in March 2018. The day was facilitated by Joette Thomas (Animate Consultancy). The new strategic plan builds on the previous one continuing the themes of;

- + Continue to have a strong national and local influential voice, seeking to safeguard current advocacy provision, while stimulating new growth.
- + Strengthening all aspects of IA practice, including supporting local area planning, as required.
- + Ensure organisational effectiveness, strength and sustainability

We held a workshop for members to discuss the role of independent advocacy in Supported Decision Making (SDM), following which it was agreed a working group be set up. The aim of the Supported Decision Making Working Group is to produce guidance for advocacy organisations to ensure advocates are clear about their role in supporting people to make decisions. Furthermore the guidance will clarify the role of independent advocacy in SDM to people who benefit from advocacy, practitioners and carers.

Consultations

- + Draft Social Security Bill
- + Socio-Economic Duty
- + Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice
- + New Scots: Refugee Integration in Scotland – Engagement
- + Consultation on draft regulations under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- + Pre-recording evidence of children and other vulnerable witnesses
- + Proposed Free Personal Care (Persons under 65) (Scotland) Bill
- + Proposed Draft Police Act 1997 and Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 Remedial Order 2018
- + Consultation on the role of the Scottish Health Council: Strengthening people's voices in health and social care
- + Consultation on the draft carer's charter of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- + Consultation on support for victims of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour
- + Social Security Bill
- + Consultation on the Continuing Care (Scotland) Amendment Order 2018
- + Consultation on Free Bus Travel for older and disabled people and modern apprentices
- + Review of homicides by people with recent contact with NHS Scotland mental health and learning disability services
- + Extending Children's Rights – Guidance for education authorities and school staff on assessment of capacity and consideration of wellbeing of children who have attained 12 years of age in respect of additional support for learning in school education
- + Section 70 of the Education (Scotland) Act – draft guidance for users of the section 70 complaints process
- + Proposed Draft Police Act 1997 and Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 Remedial Order 2018
- + Scottish National Investment Bank Consultation
- + Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland
- + Draft Code of Practice on the Exercise by Constables in Scotland of Search Powers Conferred by Sections 289 and 303C of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- + Scottish Strategy for Autism
- + Independent Review of the Regulation of Legal Services
- + Impact of Brexit on health and social care in Scotland
- + Empowering Schools: A consultation on the provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill
- + A Healthier Future – Actions and Ambitions on Diet, Activity and Healthy Weight 2018
- + Fuel Poverty Consultation
- + NHS Corporate Governance
- + Children and the GDPR Guidance
- + Review of the Gender Recognition Act 2004
- + Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament
- + Consultation on Electoral Reform

Working Groups

- + Scottish Government – Person Centred Care
- + Scottish Legal Complaints Commission – Consumer Panel
- + Duty of Candour Working Group
- + National Care Standards Review Development Group
- + Expert Advisory Group – Centre for Mental Health and Capacity Law Edinburgh Napier University
- + Mental Health Tribunals for Scotland Advocacy Reference Group
- + Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Sounding Board
- + Scottish Mental Health Partnership
- + Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations Policy Committee
- + Mental Welfare Commission Advisory Board
- + Health & Social Care Alliance Board
- + Anticipatory Care Planning Working Group
- + Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations Intermediaries Network
- + General Medical Council UK Advisory Forum
- + National Care Standards for Neurological Conditions Development Group
- + MECOPP Project Oversight Group
- + Scottish Campaign on Welfare Reform
- + SCLD Advocacy Research Reference Group
- + Disability & Carers' Benefits Expert Advisory Group
- + Expert Reference Group for Advocacy in the Children's Hearings System

Cross Party Groups

- + Racial Equality
- + Older People, Age & Aging
- + Human Rights
- + Learning Disability
- + Disability
- + Mental Health
- + Carers
- + Children & Young People
- + Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse
- + Health Inequalities

Plans for the year ahead

We will be producing the 2017/18 edition of *The Advocacy Map* and work on it will commence in May 2018. We hope to publish the final document in the autumn.

The Scottish Government will commence development of the regulations of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 and we plan to be fully involved in the development of regulations for independent advocacy.

We plan to complete the refresh of the Principles & Standards and Code of Practice for independent advocacy, which was agreed at the 2016 AGM. Members have been involved in the different stages of consultation and have provided feedback.

We plan to produce a national framework for member organisations on how to measure their and document their impact. In preparation for members using the framework we will also deliver tailored training on advocacy outcomes, how to identify them, how to measure them and how to use them to demonstrate your impact.

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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