

Annual Report

2018-2019



Scottish
**Independent
Advocacy**
Alliance

Key Achievements

Following the success of our Social Security and independent advocacy campaign which saw the right to access independent advocacy for all disabled people enshrined in legislation. We have been working with the Scottish Government to develop the principles and standards for organisations delivering advocacy for people claiming benefits. We will be working with members to ensure the principles and standards reflect the practice of independent advocates.

We have been working with Scottish Government as members of the Children's Hearings Expert Reference Group to develop a set of principles and standards for organisations delivering advocacy to children appearing before a panel. The aim has been to ensure the advocacy is of a high standard and delivered consistently across Scotland.

We were invited to give evidence to the Scottish Parliament Health & Sport Committee on the Organ Donation Bill because we had raised concerns about proposals which barred people with capacity issues from being donors.

We were also invited to give evidence to the Scottish Parliament Equalities & Human Rights Committee on the Age of Criminal Responsibility proposals. The Committee took on board our concerns around the possibility of creating confusion by naming qualified lawyers as independent advocates for children and young people who had been involved in criminal activity.

Consultations

- The Scottish Government's Revised National Outcomes
- Consultation on Draft Regulations making provision in relation to Social Security Appeals
- Tackling social isolation and loneliness
- Suicide Prevention Action Plan
- Adults with Incapacity Reform
- Consultation on draft regulations transferring the mental health tribunal for Scotland to the Scottish Tribunals
- Early Years Assistance, Consultation on the Best Start Grant Regulations
- Establishing a statutory Appropriate Adult service in Scotland
- Welfare Foods – a consultation on meeting the needs of children and families in Scotland
- Age of Criminal Responsibility
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information
- Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Bill – Call for Views
- Review of Part 1 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and creation of a Family Justice Modernisation Strategy
- Consultation on developing our approach to regulating registered Pharmacies
- Price transparency – promoting consumer choice
- Increasing the Employment of Disabled People in the Public Sector – consultation
- Consultation on Funeral Expense Assistance Regulation
- Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill
- Supporting disabled children, young people and their families: consultation
- Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill
- Progressing Children's Rights in Scotland – An Action Plan 2018 -21
- A consultation on a consumer body for Scotland
- Democracy Matters
- A Human Rights Act for Scotland
- Investigation of Offences regulations and Code of practice for Investigations
- Protecting Children: Review of section 12 of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937 and section 42 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009
- Consultation on Young Carer Grant Regulations
- GMC Consent consultation
- Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill Stage 2
- Prisoner Voting
- Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation
- Independent Healthcare Regulation Complaints Procedure
- Consultation on protective orders for people at risk of domestic abuse
- Scottish Psychological Trauma & Adversity Training Plan

Cross Party Groups

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

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
- ▶ 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

All of this would not have been possible without the SIAA staff and Board, we would also like to thank our Scottish Government funders for their continued support which is much appreciated.

Plans for the future

- We plan to launch the measuring impact toolkit for independent advocacy which members have been contributing towards.
- We will continue to work with Scottish Government, members and stakeholders to ensure independent advocacy for people claiming social security benefits is of the highest possible standards.
- We will continue to work with the Scottish Government to help with the development and delivery of advocacy for children and young people attending Children's Hearings.
- We will work to influence the review of mental health legislation led by John Scott QC.
- We will work to influence the Forensic Mental health review led by Derek Barron.

The **PANEL** principles:

Participation

Accountability

Non-discrimination and equality

Empowerment *and*

Legality



Scottish
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Advocacy
Alliance**

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Promoting  Supporting  Defending

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