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Celebrating a decade of improving the
quality of Independent Advocacy

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Annual Report 2011–2012

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 March 2011

	2012	2011
Income	£	£
Grants	207,000	200,000
Interest	579	720
Membership	3,875	4,225
Training	—	3,700
Publications	753	5,900
Donations	—	295
Total	212,207	214,840
Expenditure		
Staff costs	170,229	126,090
Temporary staff costs	—	16,721
Rent and utilities	20,868	20,366
Waste and Recycling	566	666
Insurance	787	868
Stationery and postage	4,784	5,804
Office equipment	753	178
Publicity	9,317	31,621
Repairs and renewals	458	747
Bank charges	205	176
Cleaning	2,095	918
Subscriptions	426	515
Professional fees	5,204	7,181
Audit fee	1,866	2,271
AGM costs	4,051	5,378
Training and conference	11,928	2,939
Staff expenses	2,524	3,561
Board expenses	3,526	3,366
Consultant fees	—	6,851
Depreciation	692	1,446
IT and internet costs	3,856	8,174
Working groups	331	574
Total	244,466	246,411
(Deficit)/Surplus	(32,259)	(31,571)

Achievements 2011–2012

In collaboration with Mental Health Tribunal Scotland we have published guidance for independent advocates supporting people facing a hearing regarding their care and treatment in relation to the Mental Health Act. The *Mental Health Tribunal Guidelines* were produced following consultation with advocates with extensive experience of hearings with the aim of increasing knowledge and awareness amongst advocates and improving the quality and consistency of the advocacy taking place. Also the guidance provides service users and others involved in hearings a clear idea of what to expect from the advocate.

The development of the Quality Assurance Project has progressed with the involvement of the advocacy movement. We are now close to completing this work.

The Advocacy Safeguarding project involved working with NHS and Local Authority funders and commissioners to help them develop advocacy plans for the next three to five years. This project helped raise the profile of independent advocacy on the local agenda.

With the help of funding from the Drug Policy Unit of the Scottish Government, we produced a training pack for advocates; *Problem drug use — A Training Pack: Independent Advocacy for people with problem drug use*. It provides advocates with a comprehensive understanding of the issues affecting this group. Our thanks to Crossreach for their invaluable insight in helping develop this resource.

With the Stroke Association Scotland and Advocacy Highland we produced the Stroke Training Pack which helps equip advocates working with people affected by Stroke.

We conducted and published research into the impact of the recession on advocacy organisations in Scotland. *The More for Less* report showed how the demand for advocacy is rising whilst in essence the funding for advocacy is going down.

In preparation for the Scottish Elections in May 2011 we developed the first *SIAA Independent Advocacy Manifesto*. This helped increase the profile and understanding of independent advocacy amongst the main political parties and prospective politicians.

These and other achievements not listed here throughout the year would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of the SIAA staff and Board members. Thanks also for the continued support of our sponsors in the Scottish Government Health Department.

The past year has been very productive for the SIAA. We have been involved in a number of initiatives regarding improving the quality of independent advocacy and addressing practice issues. As ever we are also working towards increasing access to more groups. The training on Social Return on Investment has started to help organisations think about how to effectively measure the impact and difference that advocacy makes. We continue to work to raise the profile of independent advocacy through awareness raising and research.

Gordon Thomson, SIAA Chair

Moirra Nicholson, SIAA Treasurer

Shaben Begum MBE, SIAA Director



A Voice to Trust is an outstanding piece of work. The fact that it is freely available on YouTube and in multiple languages is commendable. It is a resource that I still regularly direct people to.

Martin Coyle, CEO Action for Advocacy

The *Guide for Commissioners* has been very useful in Borders helping in advocacy planning, input from SIAA has been invaluable.

Bryan Davies, Advocacy Commissioner, Borders Council

The SIAA has made a significant difference to the development and maintenance of independent advocacy.

Charlotte Lee and Karen Irvine, The Stroke Association

It's vital to have an organisation at a national level to promote, support and defend Independent Advocacy, the SIAA safeguards the safeguarder.

Rachel Annand, Co Ordinator, Dunfermline Advocacy Initiative

What people say about SIAA

I'm happy to say that I have been impressed by the SIAA's work over my years as an MSP. I continue to believe in the need for the most vulnerable in our society to have access to support from an advocate who is free from potential conflicts of interest. The work of SIAA continues to support that valuable service.

Hugh O'Donnell

The development of the *Principles & Standards* and *Code of Practice for Independent Advocacy* has been really important. These underpin all advocacy work and give something to measure advocacy practice against.

Moirra Nicholson, Director, The Advocacy Project

In producing its *Mental Health Tribunal Advocacy Guidelines* SIAA has provided a tool that will assist in consolidating and strengthening the quality of advocacy services at Tribunal hearings throughout Scotland.

Dr Joe Morrow, President, Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland

We have consulted with the SIAA on a regular basis whenever expertise on advocacy is required and we have promoted SIAA materials to our membership.

Karen Addie, Royal College Psychiatrists Scotland

Our Mission Statement

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance promotes, supports and defends the principles and practice of Independent Advocacy across Scotland. It does this by:

- Providing a strong national voice for Independent Advocacy organisations
- Supporting the growth of existing Independent Advocacy organisations
- Promoting the development of new Independent Advocacy organisations
- Encouraging existing advocacy organisations towards independence.



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