

How Independent Advocacy has made a difference in people's lives:

Amadi lives in a care home. He can't communicate verbally following a severe stroke. Sarah, the advocate, spent time with him, observing him in the home and speaking to his son and to others. She suggested to care home staff that he could indicate what he liked if offered choices of food, activities, seat etc. Staff agreed to make sure he was offered these choices.



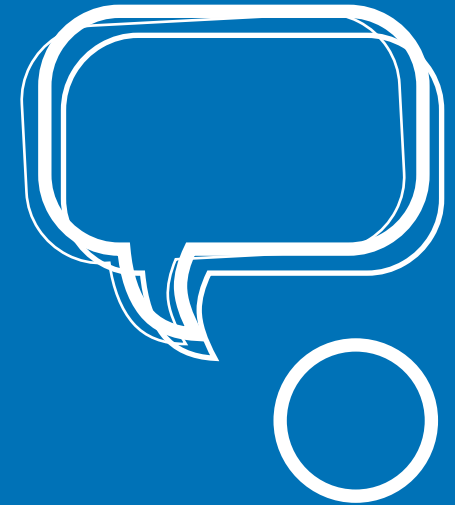
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If you would like this leaflet in a different format, further information about the SIAA or a membership pack please contact us.



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The SIAA Guide to
Non-Instructed Advocacy

What is the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA)?

A membership organisation, devoted to promoting, supporting and defending Independent Advocacy in Scotland.

What do we do?

- Represent advocacy organisations at various levels
- Work as a central agency to gather and distribute information to the membership, and other interested parties
- Raise awareness and understanding of Independent Advocacy across Scotland
- Provide training on Independent Advocacy and related issues.

You can find out about Independent Advocacy in your area by visiting the SIAA website www.siaa.org.uk or by telephoning 0131 260 5380.

Non-instructed advocacy

People who cannot give instructions are vulnerable and therefore should have access to Independent Advocacy as a way of safeguarding them.

Non-instructed advocacy happens when a person who needs an independent advocate cannot tell the advocate what they want. This may be because the person has complex communication needs or has a long-term illness or disability that prevents them from forming or clearly stating their wishes and desires. This usually takes place with people who have dementia or profound and/or severe learning difficulties.

If a person had been instructing an advocate and becomes temporarily unable to do so, then the Advocate would have regard to previous instruction.

The advocate will:

- Take time to get to know the person and significant others in their lives
- Look for alternative methods of communication which will enable the person to express their views and wishes

- Ensure the person's rights are upheld
- Challenge service providers in order to promote a person-centred independent approach.

There are a number of other leaflets describing the different types of advocacy available from the SIAA.

Independent Advocacy includes:

- Safeguarding people who are vulnerable, discriminated against or whom services find difficult to serve
- Empowering people to express their own needs and make their own decisions
- Enabling people to get information, explore and understand their options, and to make their views and wishes known
- Speaking on behalf of people who are unable to do so for themselves.