



The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance

**Independent advocacy
for older people in Scotland**

Introduction

This report has been developed as part of the elder abuse development work funded by Comic Relief. One of the objectives of this work is to identify gaps in the provision of independent advocacy for older people. With the gaps identified, work can begin to fill those gaps, with a longer term aim of ensuring that independent advocacy is available to every older person who needs it.

The primary source of the information contained in this report is the SIAA's *A Map of Independent Advocacy Across Scotland: 2007–2008 edition*. This document is produced in the financial year following that to which it refers, and contains information provided by advocacy organisations. Where necessary, information has been cross referenced with advocacy organisations' own websites, as well as double-checking with the organisation directly, to ensure accuracy.

Only those advocacy organisations that work with older people are included in this report, and only the work those organisations do with older people is included. So, where an entry, in table one, might read 'non-restrictive' for the access criteria, that means 'non-restrictive' for older people. That the service may have different access criteria for younger adults, is not within the scope of this report, but can be identified from the aforementioned advocacy map.

Within the following tables advocacy organisations are arranged by NHS Board, and where there are multiple local authorities within an NHS area, are further arranged by local authority. This should make it easy to compare advocacy provision in neighbouring areas.

Table one also identifies, where it is known, if an organisation has an age restriction. That is, if say an organisation only works with people over the age of 60, or if its generic advocacy is available only to people over 65, for example. As to age, it will be noted from the table that some organisations specify 60 whilst others 65.

It is hoped that this report will have a dual purpose. That it will assist those advocacy organisations seeking to develop the advocacy they provide for older people. Whilst also highlighting to local authority and NHS commissioners of advocacy, any gaps in their areas.

Table one: Independent advocacy for older people in Scotland

Ayrshire and Aran					
	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
East Ayrshire Advocacy Service	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive	Generic for 65+	East Ayrshire
AIMS	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive	Generic for 65+	North Ayrshire
CASS	Y	Citizen	Learning disability		South Ayrshire
Voice	N	Collective; professional	Acquired brain injury; mental health		South Ayrshire
Borders					
	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
BIAS	Y	Professional; citizen	Non-restrictive		Borders
Dumfries and Galloway					
	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
PAS	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		Dumfries and Galloway
Fife					
	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Circles	N	Professional; collective	Mental health		Fife
Dunfermline Advocacy Initiative	Y	Citizen	Learning disability		Fife
Fife Elderly Forum	N	Collective; peer	Non-restrictive	60+	Fife
The Today Group	Y	Collective	Mental health		Fife
Forth Valley					
	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocacy into Action	Y	Professional; citizen	Learning disability		Clackmannanshire; Falkirk
Forth Valley Advocacy	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		Stirling; Falkirk; Clackmannanshire
Quality Action	N	Professional	Learning disability		Stirling

Greater Glasgow and Clyde

▶ Glasgow City

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocacy Matters	Y	Professional	Mental health		Glasgow City
The Advocacy Project	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		Glasgow City
Circles	N	Professional	Mental health; learning disability		Glasgow City
Drumchapel Advocacy Project	N	Professional	G15 postcode area		Glasgow City
Equal Say	Y	Citizen	Learning disability; autistic spectrum		Glasgow City

▶ East Renfrewshire

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
ACUMEN	Y	Collective	Mental health		East Renfrewshire
Advocacy Matters	Y	Professional	Mental health		East Renfrewshire
The Advocacy Project	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		East Renfrewshire
Equal Say	Y	Citizen; professional	Learning disability; autistic spectrum		East Renfrewshire

▶ Renfrewshire

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
ACUMEN	Y	Collective	Mental health		Renfrewshire
Advocacy Matters	Y	Professional	Mental health		Renfrewshire
Renfrewshire Carers' Centre	N	Collective; professional	Carers		Renfrewshire
You First	Y	Professional	Community care issues		Renfrewshire

▶ East Dunbartonshire

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocacy Matters	Y	Professional	Mental health		E. Dunbartonshire
CEARTAS	Y	Professional	Non-restrictive		E. Dunbartonshire
Equal Say	Y	Citizen; professional	Learning disability; autistic spectrum		E. Dunbartonshire

(Greater Glasgow and Clyde continued on next page)

Greater Glasgow and Clyde (cont.)

▶ West Dunbartonshire

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
ACUMEN	Y	Collective	Mental health		W. Dunbartonshire
Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service	Y	Professional	Non-restrictive		W. Dunbartonshire

▶ Inverclyde

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
ACUMEN	Y	Collective	Mental health		Inverclyde
Inverclyde	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		Inverclyde

Grampian

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocacy North East	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		Aberdeenshire; Moray
Advocacy Service Aberdeen	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		City of Aberdeen Council

Highland

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocacy Highland	Y	Professional	Non-restrictive		Highland
Highland Carers' Advocacy Service	N	Collective; professional	Carers		Highland
Highland Users' Group	N	Collective	Mental health		Highland
Lomond and Argyll Advocacy	Y	Professional	Mental health		Highland

Lanarkshire

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
The Advocacy Project		Collective; professional	Mental health; physical disabilities; ASP		North Lanarkshire
Equals Advocacy Partnership	Y	Collective; professional	Mental health		North Lanarkshire
The Advocacy Project	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		South Lanarkshire
Speak Out Advocacy Project	N	Collective; professional	Learning disability		South Lanarkshire

Lothian

► Edinburgh

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocard	Y	Professional	Mental health		Edinburgh
CAPS	Y	Collective; professional	Mental health		Edinburgh
EARS	Y	Professional		60+	Edinburgh
Edinburgh Carers' Council	N	Collective; professional	Carers of people with mental health problems		Edinburgh
Partners in Advocacy	Y	Professional	Learning & physical disability		Edinburgh
Patients' Council, Royal Edinburgh Hospital	N	Collective	Patients (present/past) of Royal Ed Hospital		Edinburgh
People First (national)	Y	Collective	Learning disability		Edinburgh
Powerful Partnerships	Y	Citizen; collective	Learning disability		Edinburgh
VOCAL	N	Professional	Carers		Edinburgh

► East Lothian

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
CAPS	Y	Collective; professional	Mental health		East Lothian
EARS	Y	Professional		60+	East Lothian
ELIG	Y	Collective	Mental health		East Lothian
Partners in Advocacy	Y	Professional	Learning disability		East Lothian
VOCAL	N	Professional	Carers		East Lothian

(Lothian continued on next page)

Lothian (cont.)

► Mid Lothian

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
CAPS	Y	Collective; professional	Mental health		Mid Lothian
EARS	Y	Professional		60+	Mid Lothian
Partners in Advocacy	Y	Professional	Learning disability		Mid Lothian
VOCAL	N	Professional	Carers		Mid Lothian

► West Lothian

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Ace Advocacy	N	Collective; professional; citizen	Learning disability		West Lothian
EARS	Y	Professional		60+	West Lothian
Mental Health Advocacy Project	Y	Collective; professional	Mental health		West Lothian
VOCAL	N	Professional	Carers		West Lothian

Orkney

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocacy Orkney	Y	Professional; citizen	Non-restrictive		Orkney
Carers' Centre Advocacy Service	N	Professional	Carers		Orkney

Shetland

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocacy Shetland	Y	Collective; professional	Non-restrictive		Shetland

Tayside

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Angus Independent Advocacy	Y	Professional	Non-restrictive		Angus
Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross	Y	Professional; collective	Non-restrictive		Perth & Kinross
Older People's Advocacy Service	N	Professional	Non-restrictive		Dundee
DIAS	Y	Professional; citizen	Non-restrictive		Dundee
Partners in Advocacy	Y	Citizen	Learning disability		Dundee

Western Isles

	Independent	Advocacy type	Access criteria	Age restrictions	Local authority
Advocacy Western Isles	Y	Professional; collective	Non-restrictive		Western Isles

Table two: Local authority areas where there is generic independent advocacy for older people

Ayrshire & Aran	Borders	Dumfries & Galloway
North Ayrshire East Ayrshire	Borders	Dumfries & Galloway
Forth Valley	Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Grampian
Stirling Falkirk Clackmannanshire	Glasgow East Renfrewshire Renfrewshire East Dunbartonshire West Dunbartonshire Inverclyde	Aberdeen Aberdeenshire Moray
Highland	Lanarkshire	Lothian
Highland	South Lanarkshire	East Lothian Mid Lothian
Orkney	Shetland	Tayside
Orkney	Shetland	Dundee Angus Perth & Kinross
	Western Isles	
	Western Isles	

Table three: Local authority areas where there are gaps in independent advocacy provision for older people

NHS area	Ayrshire & Aran	Fife
Local authority	South Ayrshire	Fife
Advocacy gap	Independent advocacy; older people without a mental health problem	Independent advocacy; older people without a mental health problem
NHS area	Lanarkshire	Lothian
Local authority	North Lanarkshire	Edinburgh and West Lothian
Advocacy gap	Older people who don't meet specified criteria	Older people who don't meet specified criteria

Explanation of gaps in independent advocacy provision for older people

South Ayrshire

In South Ayrshire there is no independent advocacy for older people. Voice Advocacy is not independent and provides advocacy for older people with a mental health problem only.

Fife

In Fife there is no independent advocacy for older people. Circles Network is not independent and provides advocacy for older people with a mental health problem only. Fife Elderly Forum is not independent but does provide advocacy to anyone over the age of sixty.

North Lanarkshire

In North Lanarkshire there is no generic independent advocacy for older people. Equals Advocacy Partnership provides independent advocacy for older people with a mental health problem only. The Advocacy Project provides independent advocacy to older people with a mental health problem, learning disability and/communication support need, and those affected by the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

Edinburgh and West Lothian

In Edinburgh and West Lothian there is no generic independent advocacy for older people. EARS Advocacy provides independent advocacy for older people who are in residential care or sheltered accommodation; hospital (delayed discharge bed or continuing care ward); or their own home but thinking of moving into residential care. In addition, in West Lothian, EARS provides independent professional advocacy for older people in 'assisted living' settings in the community and those with a physical disability. The other independent advocacy organisations in Edinburgh and West Lothian which provide independent advocacy for older people focus on mental health or learning disability.

Conclusion

At this stage, this report only goes so far to identify the areas where there is a lack of generic independent advocacy for older people. As more detailed information is obtained from organisations, we hope to identify any gaps that might not be initially apparent. For example, more information is needed on age restrictions. For example, whilst a large number of organisations appear to provide generic independent advocacy for older people, is that for people over 60 or 65? Also, with organisations sometimes receiving funding from different departments of local Government or NHS, is there consistency in terms of age. That is, funding for older people with mental health problems might be awarded to an organisation for people over 60, whilst funding for older people in hospital affected by delayed discharge might be awarded to an organisation for people over the age of 65.

It would also be useful to analyse in more detail the referral criteria of those organisations which, on the basis of this report, appear to have a non-restrictive referral criteria. It may be the case for some of those organisations, that their referral criteria has been described as non-restrictive because it is so broad, and so a closer analysis of the referral criteria of each organisation would identify any gaps not immediately apparent. A more detailed analysis of funding of work with older people would also be of interest, to compare the situation throughout Scotland. For example which organisations have been awarded additional funding as a consequence of the *Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007*? Also, an equality audit of older people's advocacy would be of interest, to see the provision for BME and LGBT older people, for example.

By its very nature, such a report as this can soon be out of date due to the constantly changing funding landscape. Additionally, for the aforementioned reasons, it is very much a work in progress; a starting point for a more detailed analysis of the provision of independent advocacy for older people in Scotland. Table three makes clear where the most evident gaps currently are, and once we begin work to fill those gaps, a more detailed analysis will be carried out.



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