

April 2022- March 2023

Annual Report



Summary of Impact



Relationship Building

Over 2022/23 we have focused on developing our relationship with and between our members.

	Aim	Details	Outcome
	Wider Board member representation to strategically influence the development of SIAA	We utilized one-on-one meetings and open events to engage with our members.	The Board's strategic influence on SIAA's development is increased by the addition of more members.
	The members come together to provide each other with support and facilitate mutual development.	We offer peer support, roundtable discussions, and knowledge sharing opportunities.	Our members are currently looking for targeted peer support and learning opportunities.
	SIAA members are engaged with the organisation and supported in their needs.	We met with the membership and sought information about their needs.	Our upcoming plans have been guided by a better comprehension of our members' requirements.



"I've found the Managers Peer to Peer support sessions invaluable; it feels supportive and safe and as a relatively new CEO it really has helped build my confidence as well as relationships with peers. Thank you."

- SIAA member



Sustainable grassroots independent advocacy

SIAA is dedicated to promoting and supporting grassroots independent advocacy developed through local communities or communities of interest.



Aim
Expanding independent advocacy to benefit more people in Scotland.

Details
Emphasizing the significance of Independent advocacy through our policy work.

Outcome
Specific recommendations in policy and reports to increase independent advocacy.



Aim
Community-Based independent advocacy is valued by policy and decision makers.

Details
Responding to consultations highlighting the rich expertise of community based independent advocacy.

Outcome
Specific recommendations about sustainable funding for independent advocacy and the development of collective advocacy.



Aim
Potential groups can access information about independent advocacy.

Details
We informed potential groups about IA and membership requirements.

Outcome
Potential groups have more information about independent advocacy and membership.



"We are very happy to do this as we are proud to be a member of the SIAA, it's got some brilliant initiatives."

– SIAA member



Evidencing Quality

SIAA is committed to promoting high-quality independent advocacy. SIAA's goal is to demonstrate the collective impact of independent advocacy throughout Scotland, and support the development of a learning framework.

	Aim	Details	Outcome
	SIAA and its members measure and explain their impact, improve practices, and inform policy.	A working group of the membership have worked together to develop an outcomes framework.	The outcomes framework is completed and has been agreed by the wider membership.
	Members are confident, knowledgeable and skilled in their role.	We have organised 27 online training sessions, events and roundtables.	Members have said the learning and events have supported learning and increased knowledge.
	SIAA has excellent internal governance, HR and operational policies	We have developed a bespoke staff handbook and new governance subgroups	HR policies undergo regular review by the personnel subgroup. Board ensure accountability across Board subgroups.



"The work of SIAA and its member organisations in Scotland has a positive impact on communities and people's lives, which cannot be measured solely by quantitative data like "service users" or "income maximized." Qualitative information should be emphasized to highlight the impact and quality of their work."

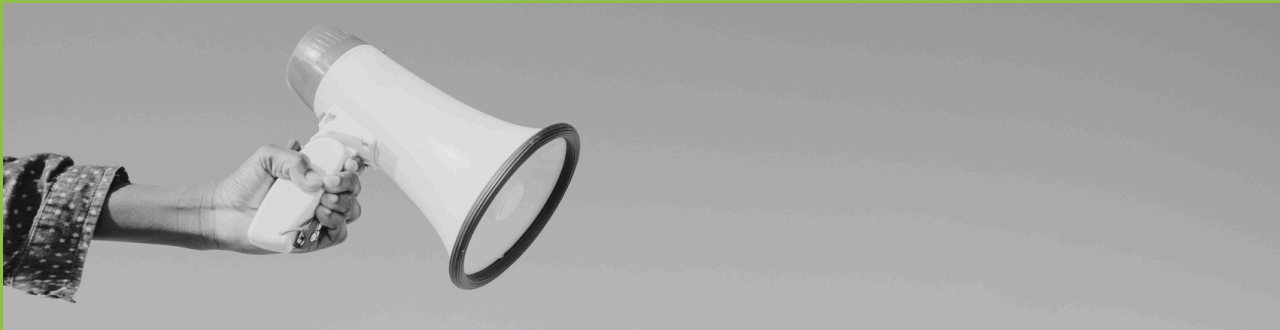
- SIAA member



Promoting and Safeguarding Independent Advocacy

During this reporting period, SIAA has provided support to its members in addressing several important future policy changes and consultations.

	Aim	Details	Outcome
	SIAA and its members stress the importance of independent advocacy in policy development.	SIAA and its members have provided detailed feedback for the Mental Health Law Review (MHLR).	The Scottish Government is yet to respond to IA recommendations made for independent advocacy in the MHLR.
	SIAA and members participate in shaping policies to support sustainable and quality independent advocacy.	SIAA and members have shared expertise on IA with Scottish Government and civil society to help shape future policies.	SIAA and members invited to play an active role in shaping future policy, including for the National Care Service and the Human Rights Bill.
	SIAA and its members persuade stakeholders to recognise the uniqueness of independent advocacy.	SIAA, Members and Civil Society held different events on human rights and independent advocacy.	220+ important stakeholders participated in an online event highlighting the distinctiveness of IA.



Thanks to SIAA for the fabulous event yesterday – lots of energy, links and learning!

- Event attendee



The year in review

SIAA underwent significant growth and change in 2022/23, appointing a new CEO and expanding the Board to increase representation and diversity. They developed a fresh strategic plan, taking into account member feedback, to foster connections and promote high-quality independent advocacy in Scotland. There has also been significant development in key policy and legislation that has the potential to impact independent advocacy.

Members currently report at a local level, there is no uniform method of demonstrating the value and overall impact of their work across Scotland. To address this issue, members have collaborated to develop an outcomes framework that highlights their collective impact. SIAA and members have taken hold of opportunities to influence policy and legislation about the potential development of independent advocacy.

Summer Highlight

SIAA and members responded to the two Mental Health Law Review consultations. The Board also developed their new strategic plan based on members feedback and potential policy developments.

Winter Highlight

A working group with members started developing an outcomes framework with facilitation from The Lasting Difference. The group had broad representation from across the membership.

Autumn Highlight

The SIAA successfully held its first in-person conference and AGM during COVID-19, attended by many members and new Board members. Members cooperated on the outcomes framework during the event.

Spring Highlight

SIAA started working on the Advocacy Map to understand the impact of independent advocacy across Scotland. SIAA started to work closely with the National Care Service and prepare for the Human Rights Bill consultation.



We'd like to thank all our funders, Staff, Board of directors and members for all their support during 2022/23

Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to the SIAA Team, Board and Members. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who have worked diligently during and beyond COVID-19 to enhance our relationship with and between our members. As we work together to preserve the knowledge and expertise that Scotland has built over the past 30 years, your contributions are invaluable. We sincerely appreciate everyone who has supported SIAA in its development, and look forward to continuing this journey in 2023-2024.

