

SIAA's 2024 Conference - Workshop descriptions

Each attendee can choose one of four available options in the morning and in the afternoon. Two workshops will be held both in the morning and in the afternoon.

To make your selection, please submit this form:

<https://airtable.com/appEbv0UgOhTqA73c/pagWbkrdrdKGLwTv8/form>

Please note that each workshop has a limited number of spaces. If you don't see all options in the menu, it means the limit has been reached.

Morning & Afternoon

Workshop 1: *Managing capacity – what to do when you can't do any more*

Most charities stepped up their workload during the pandemic, stretching capacity to meet growing needs. Many are still working at this emergency level. This leads to high-volume, low-impact work and burnout. It is unsustainable. Now is the time to manage capacity sustainably.

This workshop invites you to breathe, find new ways to think about capacity and develop practical ways to work on it. What does sustainable capacity look like? How much capacity is enough? You don't know until you're clear on what you're trying to achieve.

About the facilitator:

Graeme Reekie, The Lasting Difference

Graeme Reekie is a respected consultant specialising in sustaining charities, their leaders and impact. His knowledge of and love for the sector shine through in the guides he produces under the 'Lasting Difference' name, freely available from www.thelastngdifference.com. When he's not working, he's bouldering or learning German, often at the same time.

Workshop 2: *What does the future hold for Independent Advocacy? Resourcing Ourselves for the Uncertain Future*

While we can't be certain what the future holds for independent advocacy in Scotland, we know that change is already underway. This workshop is an opportunity to think and discuss together about 'what is', then learn and apply some simple, evidence-based tools for feeling better and strengthening your organisation's impact during these challenging times.

About the facilitator:

Joette Thomas, Animate Consulting

Joette has supported SIAA as a consultant for over 20 years, which results in her deep and nuanced understanding of the Independent Advocacy sector. Joette's approach is characterised by appreciation, positive regard, and a strong belief in the ability of humans and the systems they live and work in to change for the better. She has a particular interest in positive psychology and neuroscience, and how they can shape our thinking about life, leadership, and organisations.

Morning

Workshop 3: *What do we mean when we say “Quality Independent Advocacy”?*

This workshop invites you to explore our common perception of the “quality” of it all. What do we mean, exactly, when we say “quality independent advocacy”? What do we value, and how does it shape our collective impact? We will strive to find some answers together. Expect active involvement in an informal atmosphere, where your input directly influences SIAA’s work.

About the facilitator:

Marta Wittek, SIAA

Marta is the Engagement and Quality Officer, where she supports the membership in day-to-day work and evidencing their impact. She is passionate about gathering people in meaningful ways and using technology to facilitate collaborative work.

Workshop 4: *Fair Funding*

Over the last few years, SCVO has been engaging with voluntary organisations to collect evidence on the issues and barriers faced by the sector when accessing funding. The evidence they have collected demonstrates the urgent need for **Fair Funding** – an array of policy asks and principles that we have been calling for since late 2022.

This workshop explores the current funding landscape, the struggles faced by third sector organisations and Scottish Government’s commitments to date. There will be opportunities to work in small groups to address issues around Fair Funding “pushback” so organisations can explore how to address issues around funding for their organisation.

About the facilitator:

Jason Henderson, SCVO

Jason is a Policy & Public Affairs Officer. The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) is the national membership organisation for the voluntary sector. SCVO’s mission is to champion the role of voluntary organisations in building a flourishing society and support them to do work that has a positive impact.

Afternoon

Workshop 5: *Skills in Quality Independent Advocacy*

An interactive workshop where participants work together on real-world Independent Advocacy cases. This session is designed to foster a collaborative environment where you can learn from your peers and share your own insights. In addition, participants will have the chance to reflect on their skills and practice, identifying strengths and new avenues for growth. The outcomes of this workshop will inform the way we engage with SIAA members around learning and training.

About the facilitator:

Liisa Lehtinen, SIAA

Liisa is the Learning and Development Officer and is currently working on developing an e-learning platform focused on essential skills in Independent Advocacy. She is interested in social and environmental justice, which influences her approach to education, learning and community work.

Workshop 6: *Independent advocacy for LGBT+ people & communities*

This workshop will focus on LGBTQIA+ mental health and advocacy. Drawing on group members' lived experience, the workshop will address barriers LGBTQIA+ people commonly face when accessing services. Group members will also talk about the importance of inclusion and intersectionality and reflect on how independent advocacy could better support LGBTQIA+ communities in Scotland.

About the facilitator:

LGBTQIA+ Collective Advocacy Group, CAPS Independent Advocacy

CAPS is an independent advocacy organization which provides individual independent advocacy to people from East Lothian and Midlothian and [Collective Advocacy](#) to groups of people across Lothian with mental health issues so they can come together and voice their experiences in order to bring about change for others or improvements in services.