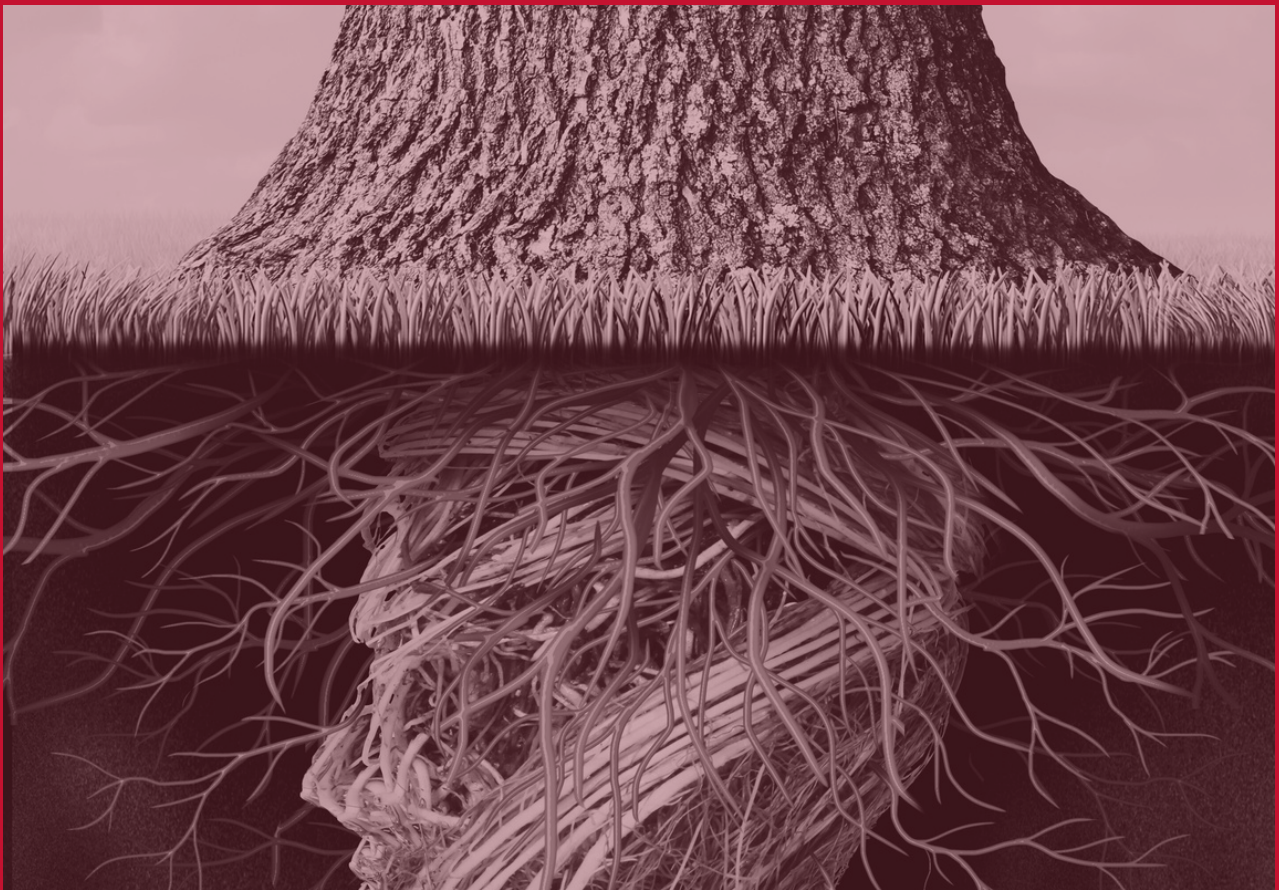


April 2023 - September 2024



Annual Report



Summary of Impact

Relationship Building

Building relationships with key Stakeholders is enabling SIAA to successfully influence current and future policy development areas to widen access to quality independent advocacy for those who require it in Scotland

	Aim	Details	Outcome
	SIAA members are engaged with and feel supported by SIAA.	SIAA welcomed a new Engagement Officer to enhance member connections. This team member strengthened the SIAA liaison person role.	The SIAA liaison person role has significantly improved communication with members and enhanced our ability to address emerging issues.
	Stakeholders with different interests and perspectives value and engage with SIAA's work.	SIAA worked with Civil Society, and members to advocate for independent advocacy as a right within the complex policy landscape.	SIAA recommend the Scottish Government adopt the definition of independent advocacy agreed by SIAA members within future policy.
	SIAA members are connected with each other.	SIAA offered opportunities for members to network through hosting 26 peer support, learning and events.	Members are sharing with us that they are gaining from the support of their peers and valuable networking opportunities.



“Some of the challenges we've faced have forced us to come together as a sector and I know colleagues from other independent advocacy organisations better than I did a few years ago which is a really good thing.”

- 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
SIAA and its members have advocated for the inclusion of independent advocacy as a right for all who need it within the Human Rights Bill.



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

Details
Engaging in consultations evidencing the expertise of community-based advocacy in supporting individuals to ensure their voices are heard and understood.

Outcome
Specific recommendations in The Promise to consider lifelong advocacy for care-experienced individuals by expanding the asset-based children's advocacy hearings model.



Aim
Potential groups can access information about independent advocacy.

Details
We have met and informed potential groups about IA and membership requirements.

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



" [Your support has been] really helpful for building our understanding of the current independent advocacy [landscape] in Scotland. This [information] can help us to illustrate the diversity of the SIAA membership and provision ".

– **Scottish Government**



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.	SIAA is developing its understanding of national collective impact of independent advocacy, featuring the outcomes framework.	SIAA has recruited a quality officer to aid the project's next phase and help members monitor outcomes data.
	Members are confident, knowledgeable and skilled in their role.	A new learning and development officer has been recruited to advance core learning in independent advocacy.	28 online training sessions, events, and roundtables led to increased knowledge and understanding among members.
	SIAA has excellent internal governance, HR and operational policies	SIAA is actively working on completing the LGBT Charter to improve policies and enact our values.	SIAA created an action plan to remove barriers for LGBTI+ people internally and, positively highlight LGBTI+ communities externally.



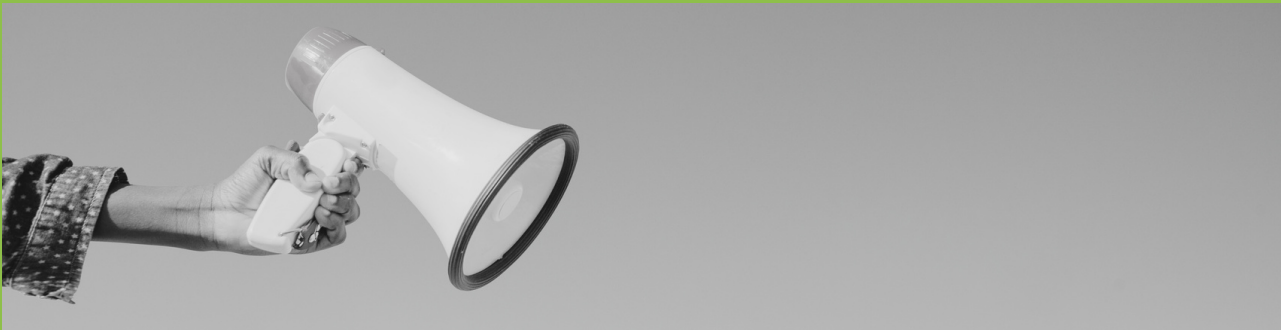
"I found the sessions really useful for my role. Sandra has a great demeanour, and she is knowledgeable and passionate. It found this inspiring, and her personal and professional examples helped put the legislation into professional context".

- 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 influence policies related to national care service and lifelong advocacy for care-experienced individuals.	SIAA sought help from members and mental health law experts to define and diagram IA, which is now included in all policy responses.
	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 have now responded to a significant number of consultations including the National Care Service Bill and Human Rights Bill.
	SIAA and its members persuade stakeholders to recognise the uniqueness of IA.	SIAA held an event with members and key stakeholders. The aim was to come together to share the impact of IA.	Members and key stakeholders fed back the benefit of increased in-depth understanding of IA's value and impact.



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

- Event attendee



The year in review

During 2024/2025 SIAA has focused on enhancing independent advocacy in Scotland through various initiatives:

- Member Engagement: Strengthening relationships via offering 26 peer support session, sending 14 members newsletters and answering 111 member enquiries, using member feedback to further develop our work.
- External Collaboration: Advocating for independent advocacy as a human right to improve understanding and access to justice.
- Independent Advocacy Provision: Addressing challenges like stagnant funding and pushing for policy reforms at events and in responses to consultations.
- Learning and Development: Offering 28 learning sessions and roundtables on topics such as the Mental Health Act for shared consistent learning.
- Governance and Sustainability: Ensuring strong governance and aiding members with procurement challenges.
- Future Goals: Creating a national learning framework by 2025 and focusing on key policies, including the Human Rights Bill.

SIAA is committed to continue to fostering quality, accessible, and sustainable independent advocacy through collaboration and policy influence.

**We'd like to thank all our funders,
Staff, Board of directors and members
for all their support during 2023/24**

