

## **What is the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance?**

**A membership organisation, devoted to the promotion, support and defence of 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.**

## **HOW TO CONTACT US**

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## **Self Advocacy**

## What is Advocacy?

- Safeguarding people who are vulnerable and discriminated against or whom services find difficult to serve.
- Empowering people who need a stronger voice by enabling them to express their own needs and make their own decisions.
- Enabling people to gain access to 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.

## WHAT IS SELF ADVOCACY?

Self Advocacy is an identified group of individuals who are users, likely users, or past users of care and support services which are provided by, or funded by, local authorities or health boards.

The group:

- puts forward its views on issues that have been identified on a collective basis.
- encourages individual members to learn new skills and develop existing ones.
- is responsible for ensuring that members are aware of their rights.

## Other types of Advocacy?

- **Citizen Advocacy** is one-to-one, long-term advocacy support, where the advocate is not paid and not motivated by personal gain.
- **Professional Advocacy** provides support on specific issues to individuals who may be unable or unwilling to represent their own views.
- **Group/Collective Advocacy** is a group of people who are all facing a common problem who get together on a formal basis to support each other over specific issues.