

Annual Report 2006

promoting • supporting • defending



Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance promotes, supports and defends the principles and practice of independent advocacy across Scotland.

CHAIR'S REPORT

This year, like the preceding ones, has been an eventful one.

The implementation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 has presented significant new challenges for those advocacy organisations supporting individuals labelled as having 'mental disorder'. In addition to the increased demands we have faced as a result of the 'right to independent advocacy', independent advocates across Scotland have had to adapt to the new challenges posed by Mental Health Tribunals.

The new Act is not perfect. It represents a significant step forward for the rights of people affected by mental ill health. It is up to us as independent advocates as well as those with statutory responsibilities under the Act to see that it works in practice.

A key role played by the SIAA in the last year has been the training offered to all advocacy organisations on the implementation of the new Act. Thanks to continued financial support from the Scottish Executive Mental Health Division, we will continue to provide training which will develop and specialise to meet the needs of the Scottish independent advocacy movement.

One of the year's most significant events has been the demise of the Advocacy Safeguards Agency (ASA). I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work carried out by the ASA staff. They helped advance the profile of independent advocacy at an important time in its development and they oversaw an unprecedented financial investment in independent advocacy in Scotland. They also developed the notion of independent evaluation of advocacy organisations from the ideas contained within Advocacy 2000's 'On Solid Ground' document and created a set of nationally accepted evaluation methods.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to conclude by paying tribute to the hard work and dedication of the staff of SIAA. Shaben, Mandy and Alexis continue the work of promoting, supporting and defending independent advocacy in Scotland.

With your support, we will continue to work towards these aims.

Chris Mackie

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This past year has been an important one for the advocacy movement in Scotland with the implementation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 in October 2005 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 in November 2005.

The SIAA has been heavily involved in the promotion and inclusion of independent advocacy at many levels since the implementation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. We have also provided an extensive programme of training on the Mental Health Act for independent advocates working on the ground, across Scotland.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT continued...

We were involved in the training for some members of the Mental Health Tribunal panels.

We have continued to campaign for the inclusion of independent advocacy in other relevant legislation proposed by the Scottish Executive.

The SIAA is a member of the Mental Health Legislation Reference Group and through that a member of the Communication Working Group and Editorial Board which produced the various Guidance Booklets for users and carers.

We were also members of the Same As You? Advocacy Sub Group; the report of this group's findings, "Having Your Say", has recently been published.

The SIAA took part in special awareness raising events at Napier University, with Mental Health nursing students and at Dundee University with Social Work students.

We are members of the Mental Welfare Commission's Principles Network, which is looking at how the principles of the Mental Health Act are followed by practitioners.

The SIAA is also a member of the Vulnerable Adults Alliance Scotland (VAAS) which contributed to the proposals for the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Bill.

We have continued to provide support to advocacy organisations by developing our weekly E-Bulletin and our website, both of which provide information on good practice, organisational development, funding opportunities, as well as issues that affect people that advocacy organisations support. The SIAA Newsletters and E-bulletins have increased our contacts with the advocacy movement in Scotland and throughout the UK.

The website now hosts an electronic copy of the Directory of Advocacy Organisations in Scotland.

The Discussion Forum on our website continues to develop as more people register and post questions about advocacy and advocacy dilemmas.

We continue to work with organisations and groups of individuals who have identified a gap in the provision of advocacy and want to develop new advocacy projects and organisations to meet their particular needs.

We have also been involved in the support of advocacy organisations that are in the process of moving towards independence or have achieved this aim, in accordance with the requirement for independent advocacy in the Mental Health Act.

Shaben Begum

YEAR AHEAD

The SIAA will prioritise the areas mentioned below in the coming year:

- In depth Mental Health Act training;
- Further develop information services – newsletter, website, and forum;
- Expand membership services;
- Produce a book about Advocacy;
- Develop a Code of Good Practice for independent advocates;
- Continue to raise the profile of independent advocacy at a national level;
- Further develop training services for advocacy organisations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The previous year has seen the SIAA survive a precarious financial uncertainty, to the point that notices of redundancy were issued to staff. We have now stabilised Scottish Executive funding and negotiations have also enabled further funding from the Mental Health Division.

We are pleased to be able to report a consolidated three year funding arrangement with the Scottish Executive to run until 2009. Special thanks are expressed to Shaben and Mandy for remaining committed to the SIAA through these uncertain times.

For the purposes of presenting audited accounts, this annual report relates to those for 2004-5 which also included granted funds from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, to whom we express particular thanks.

To summarise, Chiene & Tait, audited the accounts for 2004-5 and found them to give a true and fair review of our financial affairs at March 31st 2005. They also found that our application of those resources was in keeping with our charitable objects and purposes and that the SIAA, dependant as we are on grant funding was a going concern.

Full copies of the accounts in question can be obtained from our office upon request.

Paul Thomas

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 March 2005

	2005	2004
	£	£
Income		
Grants	101,487	90,569
Consultancy	7,332	-
Interest	637	684
Membership	3,400	350
Publications	584	96
Training	450	1,886
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	113,890	93,585
Expenditure		
Staff costs	66,185	62,543
Rent and rates	11,580	11,690
Insurance	495	476
Stationery and postage	5,618	1,447
Printing	573	-
Office equipment	1,069	1,612
Equipment hire	(29)	567
AGM costs	2,897	2,185
Repairs and maintenance	269	8,953
Bank charges	8	66
Telephone	2,843	2,123
Cleaning	110	85
Heat and light	547	1,061
Subscriptions	519	576
Professional fees	476	680
Audit fee	1,604	1,528
Training and conference	4,723	1,556
Staff expenses	3,005	3,175
Board expenses	1,683	2,070
Recruitment	484	3,543
Consultant fees	891	350
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	105,550	106,286
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Surplus/(deficit)	<u>8,340</u>	<u>(12,701)</u>

Mission Statement

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance promotes, supports and defends the principles and practice of independent advocacy across Scotland.

It does this by:

- **Providing a strong national voice for independent advocacy organisations.**
- **Supporting the growth of existing independent advocacy organisations.**
- **Promoting the development of new independent advocacy organisations.**
- **Encouraging existing advocacy organisations towards independence.**

The SIAA would like to thank :

Scottish Executive Health Department – for our core funding.

Scottish Executive Mental Health Division — for additional funding relating to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

Lloyds TSB – for an additional grant.

Board Members 2005/2006

Louise Adam — Patients Advocacy Service
Linda Bailey — Angus Independent Advocacy
Julienne Dickey — Partners in Advocacy
Angela Forbes — Advocacy Service Aberdeen
Billy Forbes — Scottish Advocacy
Monica Hunter — People First Scotland
Karen Irvine — Hartwoodhill Patients Council
Chris Mackie — The Advocacy Project
Will Mallinson — EARS
Tina Morrow — The Princess Royal Trust Highland Carers Project
Ruth Owen — Forth Valley Advocacy
Shaista Rehman — Ethnic Minority Advocacy Service
Anne Suckling — Borders Independent Advocacy Service
Paul Thomas — The People's Advocacy Service

Thanks extended to all Board members for their work this year.

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