

## 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

Melrose House  
69A George Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 2JG  
0131 260 5380 (Tel)  
0131 260 5381 (Fax)  
enquiry@siaa.org.uk  
www.siaa.org.uk



**Scottish  
Independent  
Advocacy  
Alliance**

Supported by



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

# Non-instructed Advocacy

<p><b>What is Advocacy?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding people who are vulnerable and discriminated against or whom services find difficult to serve.</li> <li>• Empowering people who need a stronger voice by enabling them to express their own needs and make their own decisions, where possible.</li> <li>• Enabling people to gain access to information, explore and understand their options, and to make their views and wishes known.</li> <li>• Speaking on behalf of people who are unable to do so for themselves.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>What is Non-instructed Advocacy?</b></p>	<p>We believe that people who cannot give instructions are extremely vulnerable and therefore <b>should</b> have access to independent advocacy as a way of safeguarding them.</p> <p>Non-instructed advocacy happens when a person who needs an advocate cannot tell their advocate what they want. This usually takes place with people who have dementia or profound and/or severe learning difficulties. This may be because the person has complex communication needs or has a long-term illness/disability that prevents them from forming or clearly stating their wishes/desires.</p>
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<p>If the person is temporarily incapacitated due to mental ill health or distress, then the advocate would continue to take instruction as they have done previously.</p>	<p>The advocate will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take time to get to know the person and significant others in their lives.</li> <li>• Look for alternative methods of communication which will enable the person to express their views and wishes.</li> <li>• Ensure the person's rights are upheld with regard to the appropriate legislation.</li> <li>• Challenge service providers in order to promote a person-centred approach.</li> </ul> <p>There are a number of other leaflets describing the different types of advocacy available from the SIAA.</p>
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