

## **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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**Scottish  
Independent  
Advocacy  
Alliance**

**Peer Advocacy**

Supported by



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

<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.</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 PEER ADVOCACY?</b></p>	<p>Peer Advocacy is about individuals who share significant life experiences. The peer advocate and their advocacy partner may share age, gender, ethnicity, diagnosis, or issues. Peer advocates use their own experiences to understand and empathise with their advocacy partner.</p> <p>Peer Advocacy works to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase self awareness, confidence and assertiveness so that the individual can speak for themselves.</li> <li>• Lessen the imbalance of power between the advocate and their advocacy partner.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Other types of Advocacy?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen Advocacy</li> <li>• Group/Collective Advocacy</li> <li>• Professional Advocacy</li> </ul> <p>Advocacy is about standing alongside people who are in danger of being ignored.</p> <p>Advocacy is a process of helping people have their say and increase their confidence.</p> <p>All forms of advocacy aim to promote self advocacy in their work and would view this as the ideal form of advocacy.</p>
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