

ABOUT ADVOCACY

JUNE 2004

Welcome to the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance newsletter.

OUR NEWS

Highlights from our AGM on 12th May 2004

We had two guest speakers, **Rebecca Robinson** from the Scottish Executive Mental Health Department in the morning, and after lunch, **Martin Murray**, a Mental Health Officer from West Lothian. Both speakers gave presentations on the new **Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003**.

Issues raised by **Rebecca Robinson**:

- The introduction of the new Mental Health Tribunal to Scotland.
Special features of:
 - Civil Compulsion – Emergency Detention, 72 hours; Short-Term Detention, 28 days; Compulsory Treatment Order, 6 months.
 - Mental health law & services framework – Rights and safeguards; Duties of the Mental Welfare Commission, Health Boards, Local Authorities.
 - Public consultation – see page 4.

- Code of Practice and Regulations regarding criminal provisions
- Documents are available via www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/. There will be a two month consultation period.
- Code of Practice: civil provisions vol.2., includes draft text on advocacy. Documents are available via www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations. There will be a three month consultation period.
- Code of Practice vol.1, Regulations vol. 1. available now, written responses due 2 July. Email mentalhealth-law@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or telephone Ryan Stewart on 0131 244 2591.

Issues raised by **Martin Murray**:

- Advocacy to be available to all with a mental health problem – Personality Disorder, Learning Disabilities, Dementia – to be a statutory requirement.
- Treatment in the community versus treatment in hospital.
- Advanced statements and Named Persons.
- Tribunals and the potential for conflict

for the lay person on the panel.

New Board Members

Louise Adam – Patient's 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.
Andrew Miller – Equal Say.
Tina Morrow – The Princess Royal Trust
Highland Carers Project.
Ruth Owen – Forth Valley Advocacy Service.
Anne Suckling – Borders Independent
Advocacy Service.

Paul Thomas – PASS Direct.

SIAA External Evaluation

As part of our funding agreement with the Scottish Executive Health Department we are due to be evaluated during the next couple of months. At the moment we are in the process of recruiting an independent agency to carry out the evaluation.

The evaluators will look at a variety of issues including what impact the SIAA has made, the structure of the organisation, it's role and remit as well as our relationship with advocacy providers and the Advocacy Safeguards Agency.

We want to hear your views on how the SIAA has performed in the last 2 years and how you would like to see the SIAA develop in the future. We will be contacting our members inviting them to take part in the evaluation. If you do not wish to take part in the SIAA evaluation then please email us and we will ensure that the evaluators do not contact you.

YOUR NEWS & VIEWS

Partners in Advocacy is carrying out a study in Edinburgh to consider the training and support needs of advocates who may be supporting people with learning disabilities who have or wish to have same sex relationships.

They are currently looking for:

1) People who would like to be community researchers – people with learning disabilities who are interested in this issue and other lesbian, gay or bisexual people – to work in pairs. The work will involve attending training,

running group interviews, and putting together a resource for advocates. This is unpaid work but expenses will be paid.

2) Advocates and others from advocacy organisations who would like to take part in a group interview on the subject.

3) People with learning disabilities who would like to take part in a group interview.

For more information contact: Julienne Dickey on 0131 4478 7723

The Older People's Network was set up to bring together paid professional advocates from **across the**

Central Belt to discuss common themes, problems and possible ways to resolve these issues. The first meeting took place on 18th September 2003 at Forth Valley Advocacy Service.

Topics covered at the Network Meeting included: Hospital Closure and the advocate's role; Improvements to benefit advocacy partners rather than services; and Promoting advocacy organisations. There was time made available for networking with the other advocates to share ideas and experiences.

For more information contact: Will Mallinson of EARS on 0131 467 2222

The Inspection of Scottish Borders Council Social Work Department Services

Taken from the Ministerial Statement by Peter Peacock – Minister for Education & Young People – “In March 2002, a woman with learning disabilities was admitted to Borders General Hospital having suffered extreme levels of physical and sexual abuse. Three men were imprisoned for that abuse. The Social Work Services Inspectorate conducted an investigation into the Department of Lifelong Care at Scottish Borders Council. The Mental Welfare Commission also carried out an investigation. The investigations found that a number of individuals had suffered severe forms of physical and emotional neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation, and financial abuse over three decades, and this could have been avoided if the agencies involved had taken appropriate action. The SWSI and MWC make 42 key recommendations, including placing a duty on Scottish Borders Council to ensure that no other individuals with similar problems are suffering as a consequence of systems or individual failings. We will take whatever actions necessary to ensure that Scotland’s vulnerable adults are not let down in this way again.” **For more information:** www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/bcpald-00.asp and www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/swsisbpds-00.asp

Our News continued....

The SIAA have been awarded £30,000 by the Scottish Executive Health Department’s Mental Health Division to carry out training on the new Mental Health Act with advocacy organisations. More details will be available very soon.

Pool of Trainers

The SIAA has a remit to provide training for members of the advocacy movement as well as service providers and other professionals. In order to carry out this function effectively we are setting up a ‘Pool of Trainers’. This will help us to deliver high quality training on a regular basis to a large number of people at a national and local level.

We are interested in recruiting a number of trainers who will initially help us deliver training on the role of advocacy within the Mental

Health Care and Treatment (Scotland) Act 2003.

The SIAA will provide the ‘Training for Trainers’ course for individuals who are invited to join the pool.

In the first instance, we are looking for anyone involved in the advocacy movement to register an interest by completing a copy of the contact sheet that is enclosed.

The Listening Network

The SIAA provides support to members of the advocacy movement on a whole range of issues. We recognise that there are people in the movement who have skills and experiences that could help others, especially those who are geographically isolated, and those who work on their own.

In order to enhance the support offered to the

advocacy movement, we are establishing a **Listening Network**. SIAA will facilitate contact between members who need support and/or assistance, and members of the Listening Network.

In the first instance we would like people to register their interest by completing a contact sheet.

Training information

Employment Law and Health & Safety Law for socially disadvantaged groups in the Voluntary Sector in Lothian. The **Rights at Work course** aims to empower people by providing them with information on the Minimum Wage, Holiday Pay, Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures, Contracts of Employment, and various aspects of Health & Safety. The course is free and flexible. **For more information, contact Peter Burton on 0131 556 7318.**

Points of Interest

Advocates and the Trade Union Movement. What are the benefits of joining a trade union? Trade unions provide support to workers regarding your legal rights and how to exercise them; training in areas such as health & safety, legislation, equalities, and ICT. **For more information check out: www.stuc.org.uk**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT:

Code of Practice – civil provisions vol. 1 [http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/health/mh\(cp\)scotlandact.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/health/mh(cp)scotlandact.pdf)

Recruitment/Tendering

Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross would like to recruit:

A Mental Health Support Worker (ref: MH01) – to provide and develop advocacy for adults who have a mental health problem and are subject to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2003; and

A Learning Disabilities Support Worker (ref: SO1) – to continue to develop group advocacy for adults who have been resettled from Strathmartine Hospital, and enable adults to contribute to the local planning implementations.

Both posts are 35 hours per week. Salary £17,340 (AP3/4). Current driving licence and use of own car are required. **Closing date** for applications – 5pm on 25th June 2004. Interviews – week beginning 19th July 2004. **For more information contact: Louise Hall on 01738 587887 or email enquiry@iapk.org.uk**

NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council Social Work Department will shortly be going out to tender for a **Mental Health Advocacy Service** for people of all ages with a mental health problem throughout the Scottish Borders.

Anyone who is interested in having the information should contact: **Sylvia Mendham, Contracts Officer, Lifelong Care, Social Work East End, Earlstoun TD4 6HU. Tel 01896 848370**

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of

About Advocacy,

please send or email information to us by 1st September 2004.

138-140 Slateford Road
Edinburgh
EH14 1LR

Tel No: 0131 455 8183
Fax No: 0131 455 8184

enquiry@siaa.org.uk

Who's who?

Director:

Shaben Begum

Development worker:

Mandy Reid

Office administrator:

John Ferguson