

# ABOUT ADVOCACY

SEPTEMBER 2004

## WELCOME TO THE SCOTTISH INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER.

### OUR NEWS

#### **SIAA/ASA EXTERNAL EVALUATION**

As many of you will know the SIAA and ASA have been undergoing an external evaluation over the last three months. The process is now close to completion and we are looking forward to receiving the final report at the end of September.

We will be circulating the report to all our members, so keep an eye open for it!

#### **SIAA DIRECTORY OF ADVOCACY ORGANISATIONS**

The SIAA Directory of Advocacy Organisations is now ready and we are in the process of sending our complimentary/free copies to all our members over the next few weeks.

The Directory lists all the different advocacy organisations in Scotland as well as providing details of the type of advocacy each organisation does and the groups they work with. It is anticipated this will be an especially useful tool to mental health professionals in preparation for the new Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

If your organisation is not a member but you would like a copy of the directory please get in touch and we will post it to you at a cost of £15 plus postage.

#### **EXTERNAL SUPERVISORS**

We have recently had a number of requests for information about external support for advocates and managers, therefore we have decided to set up a database of individuals from the advocacy movement who are interested in becoming external supporters/supervisors/mentors to others who are perhaps new in post or new to the movement.

If you are an experienced supervisor and can help others to reflect on practice, plan for the future as well as think about the principles of the work advocates do, send you contact details and details about specialist area/s you can help others with eg. mental health advocacy, management skills, advocacy for children, to us at the SIAA. It is also a good opportunity to generate extra income for your organisation!

#### **CODE OF PRACTICE**

As you will know the Consultation on the Code of Practice is now finished.

The SIAA has been working with the Mental Health Division and a number of other organisations to produce information booklets relating to different aspects of the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

## **Code of Practice continued..**

Very soon you should receive the first of these booklets on Named Persons and Advance Statements. Many of you will know that from October anyone subject to the Act will be able to nominate a Named Person and/or have an Advance Statement.

## **GOOD PRACTICE WORKING GROUP**

The SIAA is looking for people to join the Good Practice Working Group which will meet on a bi-monthly basis all over Scotland to look at issues around independent advocacy and good practice. If you are interested, then please contact us for more information.

## **POOL OF TRAINERS UPDATE**

The SIAA has a remit to provide training for members of the advocacy movement as well as service providers and other professionals.

The 'Training for Trainers' course has been organised for October and the members of the advocacy movement who had applied to join the pool have been invited to attend.

If you would like to find out about joining the 'Pool of Trainers', then please contact us for information.

## **ACCREDITATION FOR ADVOCATES**

In most other areas of the voluntary sector, workers whether paid or unpaid are expected to have a qualification, such as an SVQ. There are a number of debates taking place around the country on an informal basis as to whether or not advocates should have an accredited qualification, and should Independent Advocacy organisations offer accredited courses. This is your chance to have your say. Let us know of your comments on this matter.

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# **POINTS OF INTEREST**

**Consultation on the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 Code of Practice: Volume 2 and Volume 3:** The consultation period for these documents closed on 03/09/04. For more information go to [www.scotland.gov.uk/health/mentalhealthlaw](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/health/mentalhealthlaw).

## **Research on the Adults with Incapacity Act—"Learning from Experience"**

The Legal Studies Research Group and the Scottish Executive Justice Department funded a two-year study by Alzheimer Scotland and the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health to look at how parts 1, 2, 3 and 6 of the Act are being implemented. The study monitored and researched the way the Act is being used and its impact on people.

Responses to the consultation paper are currently being analysed and it is expected that a paper summarising the analysis will be published in October. More information can be found on [www.alzscot.org/policy/awip](http://www.alzscot.org/policy/awip).

**Disability Discrimination Act 1995:** final rights of access come into force on 1st October 2004. For more information: [www.drc-gb.org/scotland](http://www.drc-gb.org/scotland).

**Better Outcomes for Older People: Consultation on the Framework for Joint Services.** Consultation period ends on 04/10/04. For more information: [www.scotland.gov.uk/social/bofop](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/social/bofop).

**New laws on Disciplinary and Grievance procedures:** On the 1st October 2004 statutory minimum procedures for dismissal, discipline and grievance will be introduced. At the same time the revised Acas Code of Practice comes into force — the guidance Employment Tribunals use to decide whether employers have acted reasonably. Acas is running short information sessions around the country. For more information: [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

# INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY AND WORKING WITH THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Chris Mackie, Chair of the SIAA's Board of Directors met with representatives of ASA and the Law Society in March to discuss areas where independent advocates and solicitors are required to work together. The meeting took place following an issue raised by one advocacy organisation regarding solicitors' involvement with the Adults with Incapacity Act.

It was acknowledged that there was a need for a greater understanding of the role of independent advocacy by those in the legal profession. In order to explain matters, David McClements, of the Society's Professional Practice Committee, has written an article on incapacity issues for the *Journal of the Law Society of Scotland*. The SIAA has been invited to contribute an article to a future edition of the Journal, which is read by solicitors across Scotland.

It was highlighted that local advocacy organisations can contact local Law Society Faculties (groups) to offer awareness sessions on advocacy to increase understanding of the issues. These can form part of solicitors' regular continuous professional development.

## THE SAME AS YOU ADVOCACY SUB GROUP

The Same As You Advocacy Sub Group has now met on a number of occasions. The group is made up of service users and advocacy providers as well as funders and commissioners of advocacy from across Scotland. The different members of the group are collecting and collating information on advocacy provision for people with Learning Difficulties. They are trying to find out what sort of experiences people have of using advocacy services.

The SAY Advocacy Sub Group will produce a report of its findings in March 2005.

To find out more, contact **Anne Connor** Email: [theoldschool@icscotland.net](mailto:theoldschool@icscotland.net)

## GENERAL HOSPITAL CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Conference and Research Workshop by NHS Lothian and the 'Secondary Health Care for People with Learning Disabilities' Lothian Research Group is taking place on Monday 11th October 2004. For full details and an application form, please contact: **Audrey Collins** Tel: **0131 446 6800** Email: [Audrey.collins@1pct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Audrey.collins@1pct.scot.nhs.uk)

## INFORMATION FROM ASA: MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

One of the roles of the Advocacy Safeguards Agency (ASA) is to provide national guidance on monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of advocacy. It is not the case that advocacy is 'effective' because it follows a set of principles and values (for example, independence). As Mike Pochin and Rick Henderson have said in their book 'A Right Result?' Policy Press, 2001 : "...an advocacy scheme may be principled without necessarily being effective". ASA has found in the evaluations we have done to date that there is little agreement within advocacy on how it should record information about its effectiveness. This has made it difficult for advocacy organisations to show people what difference they make at both a local and national level.

ASA has produced some initial guidance for the different types of advocacy organisations to regularly monitor and review their work. **If you would like to receive, comment on or add to this, please contact:**

**Tony Rattray** on Tel: **0131 524 9380** or E-mail: [tony@advocacysafeguards.org](mailto:tony@advocacysafeguards.org)

## TRAINING INFORMATION

**Total Communication Training:** this is communication training specifically for people who work with or support adults with learning difficulties. For more information - if you are in **Lanarkshire** contact: Ann Mercer, Speech and Language Therapy Department, Glendoe Building, Coathill Hospital, Coatbridge, ML5 4DN. In **Glasgow**, contact: Speech and Language Therapists, Unit 7b, The Quadrangle, 59 Ruchill Street, Glasgow G20 9PX. In **Edinburgh**, contact: Anne Edmonstone, Speech and Language Therapy Adviser, Greenbank Centre, Tipperlinn Road, Edinburgh EH10 5HF. In **other areas**, contact your local Speech and Language Therapy Departments.

## HEALTH RIGHTS INFORMATION SCOTLAND LEAFLETS

Patients' knowledge of their rights is set to improve with the launch of Health Rights Information Scotland's first two leaflets.

The first leaflet, 'Confidentiality – it's your right', describes how the NHS protects your personal health information. The second, 'How to see your health records', covers how to see and get copies of your health records and medical reports.

HRIS will soon be producing information on other aspects of patients' rights. Topics include: the new NHS Complaints Procedure; Consent to examination and treatment; and the new NHS Quality Improvement Scotland healthcare governance standards,.

If you would like to know more about any aspect of HRIS's work, please contact one of the project staff on **0141 226 5261** or

look at the website [www.scotconsumer.org.uk/hris](http://www.scotconsumer.org.uk/hris)

## CARE COMMISSION FORUM NATIONAL MEETING

This event takes place in Edinburgh on Oct 13 and although the website

[www.carecommission.com](http://www.carecommission.com) says the deadline for registration is 20 Aug, they are still accepting applications.

## ACCESS TO BANKING SERVICES BY PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

'Banking on Change' is a report aimed at increasing access to banking services by people with learning disabilities. The report was commissioned by the Voluntary Sector Forum on Services to People with Learning Disabilities, and launched on 30th June 2004. 'Banking for Change' looks at problems and makes recommendations for change. To get a copy of the report, contact **FAIR** Email: [fair@fairadvice.org.uk](mailto:fair@fairadvice.org.uk) or **Heather Sutherland** on **0131 555 9100**.

## 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 November 2004.

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