

# A BOUT ADVOCACY

SEPTEMBER 2005

## WELCOME TO THE SCOTTISH INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

### OUR NEWS

#### NEW STAFF AT SIAA

Erin Gray, our new Administrator and Craig Morris, the new Mental Health Development Worker started working for the SIAA in July 2005. We are now in the process of organising a training programme on the Mental Health Act for Independent Advocates.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SIAA AGM

We had our AGM on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 at COSLA in Edinburgh. The main business of the AGM was the SIAA's report on progress made throughout the year. There were no resolutions to be discussed this year, and there was no need for an election of SIAA Board members.

The rest of the day gave people in the advocacy movement a chance to take part in workshop discussions on the draft Principles

and Standards document that has been produced by the Joint Principles and Standards Advisory Group, a partnership between SIAA and ASA. The feedback from the workshops has been taken back to the Advisory Group and will influence the wider consultation process, which will take place in the near future.

We would like to extend our thanks to Karen Irvine and Sally Dick for their wonderfully colourful graphics.

#### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

In order to help everyone produce well rounded and useful organisation policies, we would like to ask that everyone who is happy to share their policies and procedures email them in to us, so that we can then make them available on our website. This will then be a reference point for everyone, and a really good opportunity to share good practice. Please email your policies and procedures to us at [enquiry@siaa.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@siaa.org.uk).

#### INDEPENDENCE AND EMPLOYEE CON-

## ADULTS WITH INCAPACITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

#### IMPROVING WITH EXPERIENCE CONSULTATION PAPER

The Deputy Minister for Justice has now launched the consultation on proposed changes to the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. The consultation paper called "Improving with Experience" is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations). This is your opportunity to have your say as Independent Advocates supporting people who are affected by the Act.

## TRACTS

The SIAA Board have been looking at the meaning of 'independence' with reference to the new Mental Health Act and how it might affect the advocacy movement as a whole.

The section about Advocacy in the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 - Chapter 2 Section 259 Paragraph 5 - defines an independent advocate as someone who is not employed to provide services in a Local Authority, Health Board or NHS Trust. The Draft Code of Practice also mentions other care, treatment and welfare services.

In the draft revised Principles and Standards for Independent Advocacy, Principle 3 states "Independent advocacy is as free as it can be from conflicts of interest". The indicators for this principle are "Paid staff are not employed by a service provider" and "Paid and unpaid workers shouldn't have other jobs that result in a conflict of interest". The SIAA Board have started to look at how this Principle could be implemented.

The questions raised are:

- Should an advocacy organisation issue staff with contracts which state that the member of staff will not undertake any paid employment with an organisation which provides services to the group of people they provide advocacy for?
- Would these contracts only apply to advocates and co-ordinators? Or should the policy apply to all employees, including administrative staff?
- How fair is it to limit the employment options for part-time staff?
- Can advocacy organisation employees work for a service provider in another town or area than the one where the organisation provides advocacy?

If organisations decide to introduce the restrictions, then they would need to include this in all recruitment information.

We would be very interested to hear what your opinions are on this. Please email your opinions to [enquiry@siaa.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@siaa.org.uk).

## YOUR NEWS

### **PARTNERS IN ADVOCACY CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Partners in Advocacy Dundee moved to Number Ten, 10 Constitution Road, Dundee DD1 1LL on the 1 August 2005. Contact number **01382 205715**.

### **RAMH ADVOCACY SERVICE**

Is now known as 'You First' Advocacy Service and moved into a shop front in Paisley in April this year. The move was to raise the profile of the service and make it accessible to services and users alike.

"On the 9<sup>th</sup> August we had our official launch of the new premises. We opened for visitors from 10am -2pm with the official unveiling of a commemorative plaque at 12.30. This was followed by a buffet lunch. The Deputy Provost of Paisley and a local Councillor came along to support the project. The local newspaper and radio station sent reporters and

We got some free publicity from this. RAMH's Chief Executive announced the imminent move of the advocacy service to become an independent organisation. We now have a Board of Directors and a total of 20 staff including 13 volunteers without which we would be unable to meet the demand, as the number of referrals has risen by 50% in the past 3 years."

For more information, contact **You First Advocacy Service** on **0141 849 1229**.

### **SCOTTISH ADVOCACY WORKERS FORUM**

The next SAWF meeting will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005 in Edinburgh. There is an interesting programme planned which includes a report from the People First European Conference and workshops about advocacy in practice. For more information, contact **Sharon Smillie** on **01555 840293 ext 831**.

# POINTS OF INTEREST

## **CARERS UK**

Carers UK provides information and support for carers of disabled relatives or friends. To contact them visit [www.carerscotland.org](http://www.carerscotland.org) or call their CarersLine on **0808 8087777**.

## **WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH INFOLINE**

Threshold Women's Mental Health Initiative Infoline gives information and emotional support for women experiencing mental health difficulties or emotional distress, their carers, families and those working with them. For more information go to [www.thresholdwomen.org.uk](http://www.thresholdwomen.org.uk) or call the infoline on **0808 808 6000**.

## **NEW SOCIAL WORK COMMISSIONER**

George Kappler has been appointed Social Work Commissioner at the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland. He is to take a lead role in social work and community care issues for the Commission. For more information go to [www.mwscot.org.uk](http://www.mwscot.org.uk).

## **WESTMINSTER ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR SENIOR RESIDENTS (WASSR)**

WASSR have produced a poster which gives examples of their work. The poster is a summary of their self-evaluation report, "Adding Value Through Advocacy", to find the benefits WASSR brings to the community and to statutory service providers in Westminster. The

report is available at [www.wassr.org](http://www.wassr.org).

## **EDUCATION (ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004**

The Code of Practice for Local Authorities and Schools was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005. It can be downloaded from [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/School-Education](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/School-Education).

## **MENTAL HEALTH ACT – DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE**

The Draft Code of Practice for the Mental Health Care & Treatment Act (Scotland) 2003 in three separate volumes is available on [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/MentalHealth/mhlaw](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/MentalHealth/mhlaw), then click on **Guidance**.

## **MENTAL HEALTH TRIBUNAL PANEL MEMBERS**

For information on the Legal, Medical and General panel members go to: [www.mhtscot.org](http://www.mhtscot.org) and click on **Panel Members**.

## **QUALITY OF CARE REPORT**

Alzheimers Scotland have published a report on the quality of care for people with dementia living in care homes in Scotland. For more information on "This is My Home: Quality of Care for People with Dementia Living in Care Homes" go to

# **SIAA BOARD MEMBERS - WHO'S WHO**

**Billy Forbes** - Scottish Advocacy

**Tina Morrow** - Princess Royal Trust  
Highland Carers Project

**Chris Mackie** - The Advocacy Project

**Julienne Dickey** - Partners in Advocacy

**Karen Irvine** - Hartwoodhill Patients Council

**Linda Bailey** - Angus Independent  
Advocacy

**Louise Adam** - Patients Advocacy Service

**Paul Thomas** - People's Advocacy Service

**Shaista Rehman** - Ethnic Minority  
Advocacy Service

**Will Mallinson** - EARS

# INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE (IIMHL)

## Report by Fiona Macdonald:

"Earlier this year, I was sponsored by the Scottish Recovery Network (SRN) to attend the IIMHL Exchange in New Zealand. I hope to share what I learned. These are my personal views and experience. The Exchange involved visiting a host site, meeting with 'Consumer Leaders' (user activists from participating countries) and attending a two day conference. More details can be found on the SRN web-site.

## Advocacy, Recovery and Peer Support

As an advocate, I was keen to hear what's happening internationally around Advocacy, Recovery and Peer Support. 'Recovery' shares key values and interests with Independent Advocacy - respect for autonomy, choice and self-determination, rights to social inclusion, positive risk taking, valuing difference, seeing the whole person, recognising the strengths of community. New Zealand has a national 'blueprint' for Recovery. Their Mental Health Commission has published 'Recovery Competencies for Mental Health Workers'. This emphasises holistic approaches based on the person's own ideas of living well, in the presence or absence of symptoms – not just managing mental illness.

The host site I visited, Mind and Body Consultants, supports a team of Consumer Advisors and a Research Team, and is currently developing a Peer Support Project. Consumer Leaders are working internationally to promote user involvement through the World Health Organisation. 'Peer Support' encourages survival and development for many of us – informal support as inpatients, support groups, people in user-worker roles and user-activists in Collective Advocacy. We heard about widespread examples of established 'Peer Support' Projects, where people with experience of mental health difficulties are being employed to support each other, for example in Georgia, USA. A Peer Support Conference in Scotland is proposed for December 2005 and Scotland is hosting the IIMHL Exchange in June 2006."

For more information go to the **Scottish Recovery Network** website which has the reports from the New Zealand Exchange, and information and links that aim to engage communities across Scotland in debate on how best to promote and support recovery from long-term mental health problems at [www.scottishrecovery.net](http://www.scottishrecovery.net).

## "BEYOND WALLS" FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES MANAGED CARE SERVICES NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, the "Beyond Walls" conference is being held in Edinburgh to discuss and disseminate the work of the Forensic Network, the developing national body which oversees and supports the development of services for Mentally Disordered Offenders. The day will focus on the future of Forensic Mental Health Services in Scotland, Service Planning and Provision, Education and Training. To book your place call **0131 555959** or visit: [www.forensicnetwork.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.forensicnetwork.scot.nhs.uk).

### SCOTTISH INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

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If you would like to contribute to the next edition of **About Advocacy**, please post or email information to us by 18th November 2005.