

A BOUT ADVOCACY

MARCH 2005

WELCOME TO THE SCOTTISH INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER.

OUR NEWS

THE SIAA/ASA EVALUATION UPDATE

The Evaluation Report has yet to be finalised. We will be circulating a copy of the report as soon as we can.

THE SIAA WEBSITE

We have had positive feedback from advocacy organisations, advocates, commissioners and members of the public about the information on our website. We are adding to it all the time. If there is something specific you would like to see on our website, then please do let us know.

THE SIAA FORUM

This is the place for anyone involved in advocacy to have their say about developments in their local area, to ask particular questions about advocacy, and to talk about advocacy dilemmas. It is easy to use.

Simply log on to our website at www.siaa.org.uk and click on the **Forum** box in the index. All you have to do is register and then you can post your question or take part in the current debates.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

PROTECTION, RISK AND QUALITY OF LIFE - Citizen Advocacy in an Age of Regulation Conference on Monday 25th April 2005 at Easter Road Stadium, Edinburgh.

Speakers at the event include: Rhona Brankin MSP, Deputy Minister for Health; Sandy Cameron, Director, South Lanarkshire Council; and Pete Ritchie, formerly Director of Scottish Human Services Trust.

The conference is aimed at Commissioners of services for people who face social exclusion; strategists and planners of services within health authorities and local authorities; Local Area Co-ordinators; and MHOs.

Please tell your local advocacy commissioners, planners and MHOs about the event and encourage them to attend to find out more about the benefits of Citizen Advocacy.

For more information contact: **Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability** on **0141 418 5420** or email administrator@scld.co.uk.

POINTS OF INTEREST

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 2000

The Scottish Human Rights Trust, in partnership with the Scottish Executive, has published a Guide to Human Rights for the Voluntary Sector. Packed with useful information, case law, typical scenarios and checklists, the Guide provides a reference tool for Voluntary Sector organisations in a non-legalistic format. For more information, contact **The Scottish Human Rights Trust** on **0141 352 6944**, by e-mail on **contactus@scotrights.org** or log on to **www.scotrights.org**.

CRBS

The CRBS are running General Awareness Raising Sessions around Scotland on Data Protection, the Scottish Criminal Justice System, and Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Children. For more information, contact **Janice MacDonald** on **01786 849777** or email **info@crbs.org.uk**.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID

Scottish Women's Aid run training courses on all aspects of domestic abuse including awareness raising and supporting women experiencing domestic abuse. For more information, contact **Nel Whiting** on **0131 475 2486**.

WHO ADVOCATES FOR THE ADVOCATES?

For more information about trade union membership, go to **www.stuc.org.uk**.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

Does your organisation works with children and young people? If the answer is 'yes', then you need to know about the Act. For more information, contact **CRBS Helpline** on **01786 849777**.

COMBAT STRESS

The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society exists to serve these men and women. For over 80 years, this has been the only services charity specialising in helping those of all ranks from the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy suffering from psychological disability as a result of their service. Through their national network of welfare officers, they visit clients at home in order to establish how best the Society can improve their quality of life. For more information, go to **www.combatstress.org.uk**.

SCOTLAND'S MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

There was a Scottish pilot of Mental Health First Aid training run in 2004. NHS Scotland is now responsible for the next phase of SMHFA and is inviting individuals to apply for the SMHFA Instructor's Training. SMHFA aims to raise awareness about mental ill health through training on the signs and symptoms of depression, anxiety disorders and psychosis, inform people about the effective interventions and treatments available, and what to do in mental health crisis situations. In order to be approved to deliver the training, people need to participate in the NHS Scotland's SMHFA Instructor's training course. For more information, contact **Alana Atkinson of The Scottish Development Centre for Mental health** at **alana@sdcmh.org.uk**.

NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS FOR MANAGING VOLUNTEERS

The Occupational Standards for Managing Volunteers specify the standards of performance those recruiting and supporting volunteers should be working to across the UK. They also describe the knowledge and skills managers of volunteers need to perform to the required standard. For more information, log on to **www.voluntarysectorskills.org.uk**.

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING ACCOUNT

ILA Scotland is a brand new scheme that will help you pay for the learning you want to do. You can get up to £200 a year towards a wide range of approved courses.

ILA stands for Individual Learning Account. It's a Scottish Executive scheme for anyone who earns £15,000 or less per year, including people on benefits and those who are self-employed. And the money is not a loan – so you won't have to pay it back. You can use your ILA Scotland funds to pay for the learning of your choice at an approved learning provider – from learning centres, local colleges, universities or private training companies. You just pay a minimum of £10 for every course you do. For example, if the course costs £100, you can use your ILA Scotland account to pay £90 towards it and you contribute the other £10.

To find out more: call **ILA Scotland** on **0808 100 1090**, or visit the website at **www.ilascotland.org.uk**.

VULNERABLE ADULTS ALLIANCE SCOTLAND – V.A.A.S

Now that Comic Relief 2005 has highlighted the subject of Elder Abuse, with the drama "Dad" shown on 24th February and Red Nose Day on 11th March 2005, the Elder Abuse Reference Group has changed its name and its remit to look at the proposed Vulnerable Adults Bill that is being considered by the Scottish Parliament. It is hoped that this alliance of national organisations that offer support and services to vulnerable adults in Scotland will lead the way when the consultation process on the Bill begins.

The S.I.A.A. is involved in this group to ensure that Independent Advocacy will be included in the Bill. We will keep you updated on the progress of the V.A.A.S.

Age Concern Scotland have published an booklet, "STOP the abuse of senior citizens", that contains important and useful information about Elder Abuse. For copies of the "STOP the abuse" booklet, contact: **Age Concern Scotland on 0131 220 3345**.

THE TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS (PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT) REGULATIONS 1981 – T.U.P.E

Why is TUPE important to advocates and advocacy organisations?

The purpose of the regulations are: to protect the rights and contractual obligations owed to employees where a business or undertaking in which they are employed is transferred into new hands; and to ensure that where there is to be a transfer both the old and the new employers consult and inform the employees affected by the changes.

If your organisation is thinking about or going through the process of becoming independent of a larger organisation, then TUPE is the way in which your rights as an employee are protected. This means that the Independent Organisation as your new employer must uphold the employment rights that you have at the moment. Your terms and conditions cannot be changed in a way that reduces your hours of employment or leave entitlement, nor can your salary or hourly rate be changed.

For more information, contact your trade union or go to **www.acas.org.uk**.

YOUR NEWS

PARTNERS IN ADVOCACY would like to give notice that they are planning a Conference on Advocacy for Children and Young People with Learning Difficulties, which will take place in Edinburgh in May/June 2005.

The Conference aims to promote and raise awareness of advocacy for children and young people with learning difficulties in Scotland and to investigate links between advocacy and other person-centred activities. It is aimed at commissioners, service managers, practitioners, parents, advocates.

For more information contact: **0131 478 7723** or **admin@partnersinadvocacy.org.uk**.

DO NOT ATTEMPT RESUSCITATION POLICIES IN SCOTLAND

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) published a research report on 13th January 2005 into the position of Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) policies and disabled people in Scotland.

The research was commissioned from the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, and analysed policy guidelines produced by NHS Trusts and Health Boards throughout Scotland, as well as interviews with hospital consultants and explored the views of two major voluntary organisations. Policies from 23 Trusts and 7 Health Boards were analysed. Researchers found that, as these are UK guidelines, the policies do not always fully reflect the particular position in Scotland, in relation to children and young people, or of the Adults with Incapacity Act 2000. The report concludes that further research is needed in a range of areas relating to DNAR notices, including decision-making roles, the use and role of legal attorneys, and the use of advocacy.

The research makes a number of recommendations, including:

- NHS boards and trusts should review and monitor DNAR policies and audit the use of DNAR notices, as well as raising the profile of training and of advocacy services
- Consultants be given training on current legislation and sensitive communication, along with access to legal advice
- Disabled people and their families be made familiar with their legal rights, including the right to independent advocacy, and made aware of complaint procedures and support services in the NHS.

The DRC should continue to monitor and review the use of DNAR notices, healthcare policies and practice and the use of advocacy services in relation to disabled people.

For more information about the report, contact: **Carol Stewart** on **0131 527 4044** or **Adam Gaines** on **0131 527 4030**.

If you would like a copy of the SIAA Directory of Advocacy Organisations in Scotland, only £15 plus p&p please contact us at the address below.

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 3rd June 2005.

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