

ABOUT ADVOCACY

DECEMBER 2004

WELCOME TO THE SCOTTISH INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER.

OUR NEWS

THE SIAA WEBSITE

Many thanks to Chris Mackie for all his hard work on developing our website.

Some of you may have noticed that our website was featured in Third Force News recently as one of their "Websites of the Week". Apart from being packed full of information about advocacy, it also has a forum for you to debate the hot issues in advocacy. Visit our website www.siaa.org.uk and have your say on the Forum.

The website also has a specific page for advocacy organisations in Glasgow. This is a service we are happy to offer other Local Authorities/Health Boards/Trust for a very reasonable fee.

We are also aware that many of our members do not have a website therefore we are offering a special discounted rate of £250 to develop a basic page, containing information about who you are and what you do.

Contact us for more details.

SIAA POOL OF TRAINERS

All the 22 people who volunteered for the first

round of "Training for Trainers" gathered at Gartmore House just outside Stirling for two days in October. It was an action packed programme in which people had a chance to learn (or refresh their memories) about the best ways to deliver training.

Comments from participants were positive and included:

"Excellent, I will feel more confident and able to carry out training".

"I loved the icebreakers and group work".

"Both trainers were excellent – they had different styles but both were relaxed and knew what they were doing. They worked well together"

"It has been the most productive 2 days away from the office and I will recommend it to my colleagues".

"I've really enjoyed being with such a good mix of people, we should make a good pool of trainers".

The SIAA would like to thank the Trainers, Mike Day and Chris Mackie for all their hard work.

If you would like to take part in the next "Training for Trainers" course then let us

DIRECTORY

All SIAA members should have received their free copies of our Directory by now and if you would like a further copy please let us know.

So far we have received some excellent feedback on the Directory, one advocacy co-ordinator remarked that she was "impressed with how the advocacy movement has grown over the last few years."

A service provider stated that it would be "the most used directory in their office as it is a valuable resource to help colleagues make referrals to advocates."

As well as containing information about the different advocacy organisations dotted around Scotland the Directory also gives valuable information about the different types of advocacy, the SIAA, the ASA and the SAWF.

Further copies of the Directory can be obtained at a cost of £15 plus p&p.

JOINT WORKING PROTOCOLS

We have recently received a number of requests from advocacy organisations developing Joint Working Protocols with funders and service providers. If you have a Joint Working Protocol that you would like to share with others in the advocacy movement, please send us a copy and save a colleague reinventing the wheel!

SIAA/ASA EVALUATION UPDATE

The Evaluation report is still in draft form; we are hoping it will be finished before Christmas. We will let you know when it is ready for circulation.

YOUR NEWSLETTERS

We know that many advocacy organisations produce regular newsletters, please add us to your mailing list – it's a great way for us to hear your news.

POINTS OF INTEREST

JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION RESEARCH

Supporting Disabled Adults as Parents:

Research carried out by the National Family and Parent Institute has highlighted the actual support that disabled parents want, which includes advocacy. For more information, go to www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialcare/n34.

Young Carers in Black Families: highlights the particular needs of young Black & Minority Ethnic carers, and what support needs they have. For more information, go to www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialcare/412.

ORGANISATION SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL

When you have a spare moment between now and the Christmas break try out the McKinsey Capacity Assessment Grid. It is especially designed for small not for profit organisations and has got some interesting ideas about

growth and development.

Go to www.emcf.org/evaluation/mckinsey_assessment_tool.htm for more details.

MICROSOFT GIVING PROGRAMME:

Each year Microsoft donate computer software packages to charities and non-profit organisations. For more information, go to www.microsoft.com/uk/education/ or telephone **The Education Line** on **0870 6070800**.

YOUNG PEOPLE ANTI-STIGMA

CAMPAIGN: see me... are giving adults advance notice of their intention to launch their campaign to challenge the attitudes of young people aged 12 to 20 years, in regard to mental health problems. The campaign is to be launched early in 2005. For more information on how to obtain support and campaigning materials, go to www.seemescotland.org.

THE SIAA HELPS OUT IN SHETLAND

Advocacy Shetland is based in Lerwick and provides a generic independent service to the whole of the Shetland Isles. It has been going through a period of change and reorganisation over the past couple of years. During this time, there has been a complete changeover of paid staff and the management committee, as well as three office premises' moves. The manager, Richard Charlton, has this to say:-

"It has been an interesting time with few dull moments! My first task was to carry out a complete review of the service and rebuild it almost from scratch.

To assist in this, I naturally turned to the SIAA for advice and practical help. In October 2003, Shaben, along with Louise Adam, travelled to Shetland and ran a one day training event, for us which was opened up to service providers and other voluntary bodies. This was a huge success in raising local awareness of independent advocacy, and in putting Advocacy Shetland back on the local map.

This was followed up by regular contact between myself and the SIAA. Shaben and Mandy visited Shetland for 2 days at the end of May this year, and I met with Mandy in Edinburgh. A great deal of useful information was given to Advocacy Shetland by the SIAA and this has been of great assistance in rebuilding the service and establishing an updated training programme for Staff, Volunteers and Management Committee members.

I am very grateful for all the help and support I've received from Mandy and Shaben and that without their input my task would have been very much more difficult. What they have done is well beyond what I expected and it has been a great help in revitalising Advocacy Shetland."

ELDER ABUSE

Age Concern Scotland Elder Abuse Project has set up a working group, with members from a number of National Voluntary Organisations and Statutory Agencies, such as the Police, Social Work, the Care Commission, the Samaritans, Alzheimer Scotland, and the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance. The group's remit is to look at the impact that Comic Relief 2005 will have on services and organisations that work with Older People - including Advocacy Organisations. The only UK issue to be covered by Red Nose Day 2005 will be elder abuse. There are several television and radio programmes scheduled before Red Nose Day that will be based around different aspects of abuse of older people. You will be able to get more information from our website in the New Year.

The Elder Abuse Helpline number is 0808 808 8141.

POINTS OF INTEREST continued...

ADVANCE STATEMENTS AND NAMED PERSONS

You should all have received copies of the Guides on Advance Statements and Named Persons, further copies can be obtained from the **Mental Health Division**. Contact details:

mentalhealthlaw@scotland.gov.uk. www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT CODE OF PRACTICE

As you will be aware the publication of the Code of Practice has been delayed. It should be ready in the new year.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the **Tudor Trust** website for information about funding – their priority groups include Older People, Mental Health, and Young People among others. They are looking for creative applications so go to **www.tudortrust.org.uk** or call **0207 727 8522** for more details.

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AGE CONCERN SCOTLAND: Clydesdale Advocacy Service has been expanded and is now the South Lanarkshire Advocacy Service, which will deal with all issues affecting people over the age of 65 years, from housing to health. There are offices in Cambuslang, Carluke and Hamilton.

EQUAL SAY: Andy Miller left for pastures new at the end of the summer, and Equal Say would like to extend a warm welcome to their new manager, Dawn Snoulton, who started in post in the middle of November 2004.

SCOTTISH ADVOCACY WORKERS FORUM– Dates for your Diary

The next SAWF event has been scheduled for 21st/22nd April 2005. Don't forget to renew your membership. For more information, contact **Ann Morton on 01698 275431.**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (SCOTLAND) 2002

The Act will come into force on 1st January 2005. "The Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) 2002 enables any person to obtain information from Scottish public authorities. This is a legal right and will ensure that all people get information to which they are entitled." The Act applies to the Scottish Executive and its agencies; The Scottish Parliament; Local Authorities; NHS Scotland; Universities and Colleges; and the Police.

There are exemptions to the Act, which are on the website. Local Authorities and NHS Scotland can publish information that they hold on organisations that they fund, without the express permission of that organisation. This may have implications for Advocacy Organisations. To find out more, go to **www.itspublicknowledge.info**.

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

STRESS MANAGEMENT: There have been several enquiries to the SIAA about the management of stress at work. These websites have been recommended for more information: **www.hse.gov.uk** and **www.humansolutions.org.uk**.

LONE WORKING: As part of managing stress at work, you may like more information on lone working. The Suzy Lamplugh Trust has published several booklets on this subject. For more information, go to **www.suzylamplugh.org**.

ASA NEWS

ASA are saying goodbye to two members of staff in December 2004 – Stephanie Taylor, Policy & Research Officer and Tony Rattray, Senior Evaluation Worker. ASA would like to thank them for their contributions to the organisation and wish them well for the future. Emma Harvey is joining ASA this month as Mental Health Act Development Worker on an 18 months secondment. She will provide support to NHS boards and LA Commissioners to develop independent advocacy.

For extra copies of the newsletter, 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 18th February 2005.

www.siaa.org.uk

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