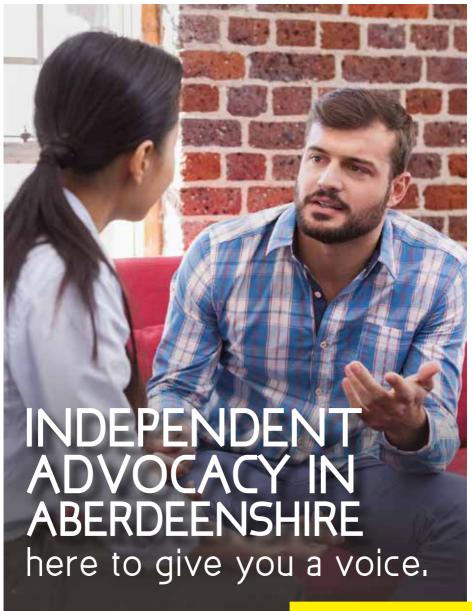


### Advocacy North East



#### What is Independent Advocacy?

"Independent Advocacy is a way to help people have a stronger voice and to have as much control as possible over their own lives.

Independent Advocacy organisations are separate from organisations that provide other types of services.

An independent advocate will not make decisions on behalf of the person or group they are supporting. The independent advocate helps the person or group to get the information they need to make real choices about their circumstances and supports the person or group to put their choices across to others.

An independent advocate may speak on behalf of people who are unable to do so for themselves."

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance - siaa.org.uk

Advocacy North East is a member of the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance. We are committed to working in line with the SIAA Principles, Standards and Code of Best Practice for Independent Advocacy organisations.



#### Who is it for?

Advocacy North East is a rights based independent advocacy service in Aberdeenshire working with people aged sixteen years and over who are experiencing mental illness or disability. This includes people with dementia, people with learning disabilities and those with an acquired brain injury – to support them in matters relating to their health and care.

We deliver our work throughout the local community as well as to Aberdeenshire residents who are receiving services in hospitals in Aberdeen.

Advocacy North East supports a range of other people including those who may be involved in Adult Support and Protection processes, people with problematic substance use who need advocacy in relation to their care and treatment and people who are resident within HMP Grampian.

We also provide an independent advocacy service for Carers.

We put the individual first and are committed to work with integrity, confidentiality and respect, to enable individuals to have a voice and an equal opportunity to make informed choices.



Sometimes people don't explain the things they have said or decisions they have made, and that can make us feel confused.

Sometimes it can be difficult to tell people about the things you want, or to disagree with what someone has said.



Your advocate may go to meetings with you, help you write letters, or make phonecalls.

Your advocate will work with you to ensure that your views are heard and understood.





Your advocate will only say the things that you want people to know, unless you say something that would put you or others at risk of harm.

Your advocate will listen to what you say and help you find information about the choices you have.





Your advocate will not give you their opinion or advice.



Your advocate is here to give you a voice.



Your advocate will always do their best to ensure that decisions are explained to you in a way that you can understand.

Although your advocate will try and help you, it might not be possible to change things.



Our service is free, confidential & independent



## **>>**

# Making a referral

You can refer yourself, or you can ask someone you know to do this for you.



You can contact Advocacy North East by phone, email or letter.



