



Advocacy Strategy 2023 – 2026

Easy Read Version





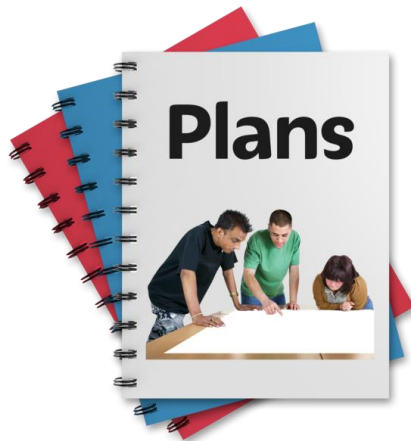
This Easy Read document is about Fife's **Advocacy Strategy**.

Advocacy helps people to have a voice, to have their views heard.

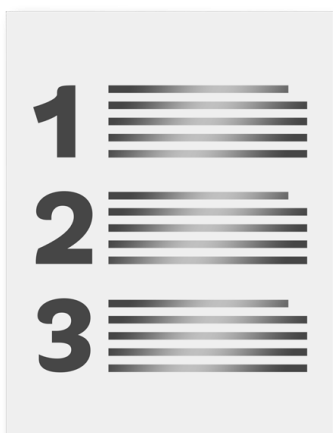


An **advocate** is someone who supports people to understand what is happening.

Advocates can help people to find the information they need, and to make their own decisions. **Advocates** help people to have a voice and express their opinions.



A **strategy** is a document that sets out the things that the Partnership wants to do over a few years.



There may be some words you don't know in the document. When you see them for the first time they will be in **bold**.

There is a word list with the meanings of these new words at the end of the document.



The purpose of the **Advocacy Strategy** is to make sure that:

- people are treated fairly
- their views are heard
- they have a say in their own care



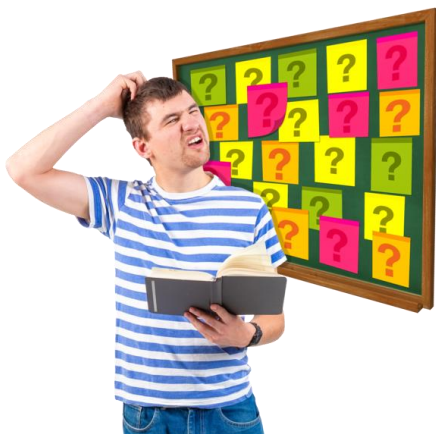
The law gives some people rights to independent **advocacy** services.

Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003



Independent **advocacy** means that it is not provided by Fife Council, NHS Fife, or other care providers.

Advocacy is free and it is private.



Advocates do not make decisions for someone. They do not tell people what they should do.

Advocates do help people to speak up for themselves. They may also help people to find the answers to their problems.



There are different types of **advocacy** services.

In professional (issue-based) **advocacy** an expert will help someone to have their say and resolve a specific issue.



Citizen **advocacy** is usually provided by an unpaid volunteer and can last for a longer time.

It can help people to be more active in their community.



Non instructed **advocacy** helps people who are not able to tell the advocate what they need.

It can help people with dementia or other similar difficulties.



Group **advocacy** (or collective **advocacy**) can help a group of people who share the same concerns.

It can help people be more confident, and to work together to improve things.



Children and young people (under 18) can get an **advocate** if they:

- are a 'looked after' child
- are supported by child protection
- have mental health issues or a learning disability



Adults (age 16 or older) can get an **advocate** if they have:

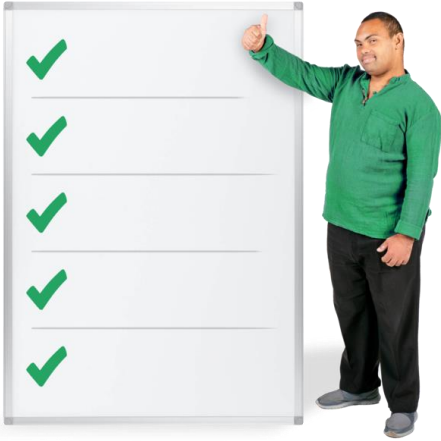
- a disability
- a long-term illness
- a learning disability
- dementia
- autism spectrum disorder
- a personality disorder
- mental health problems



Advocates can also help people who are unpaid carers. This help is for adult carers and young carers.



There are national standards for **advocacy** services. This ensures that everyone receives the same level of high-quality support.



In Fife we want people to:

- have their voices heard more often
- feel involved in decisions about their care
- have more control over their lives



There are some things that we will do over the next three years.

These things will improve **advocacy** services in Fife.



We will review the types of **advocacy** services that we provide.

If there are any gaps we can add more services to fix this.



Working with Fife Advocacy Forum, we will make it easier for people to know what **advocacy** services are available (or they can use).



We will update the agreements we have with **advocacy** providers.

This will help us monitor the **advocacy** services that are provided across Fife.



We will update our **advocacy contract**. The new **contract** will improve the quality of **advocacy** people can get.



More people will be able to get **advocacy** services.

There will be more choices for people who need **advocacy** support.

**Fife Health
& Social Care
Partnership**



Supporting the people of Fife together

You can find more information about independent **advocacy** services on our website: www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org

Fife Advocacy Forum have a list of organisations that provide **advocacy** support here:

fifeadvocacyforum.org.uk/category/support-organisations

What the words mean.

Advocacy	Helps people to have a voice, to have their views heard.
Advocate	An advocate is a person who will support you to have your voice heard.
Contract	A written agreement which sets out what advocacy providers must do.
Strategy	The things that an organisation wants to do over a few years.
Health and Social Care Partnership	When the local council and local NHS work together to deliver services.

