



Advocacy Strategy 2023 - 2026

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Fife Advocacy Forum
Supporting & Developing Advocacy Across Fife



Foreword

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership's Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 is identified as one of the nine transformational strategies within our newly published Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026.

The Partnership recognises the important role that advocacy plays in helping to safeguard people who may be at risk of being treated unfairly as a result of circumstances that make them vulnerable. We understand that advocacy support plays a critical role in ensuring that people's rights are not infringed, and it also makes it easier for people to exercise those rights and have their voice heard when decisions are being made about their care.

In developing this Advocacy Strategy, we have worked in partnership with Fife Advocacy Forum, we have considered the recommendations of a number of local and national consultations relating to advocacy support and we have also carried out targeted engagement with our current advocacy providers and those who use our advocacy services. We would like to acknowledge that the input from our advocacy service providers and those with lived experience of using these services has been invaluable to the development of this Advocacy Strategy.

We are confident that our Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 details a shared understanding of the importance of advocacy service provision in Fife and demonstrates a commitment to a continuous improvement approach in the development of advocacy services and the delivery of our identified advocacy priorities.

Executive Summary

Health Boards and local authorities have a statutory responsibility under a range of legislation affecting both children and adults to provide access to independent advocacy for specific groups of people.

In 2010, the Scottish Government imposed a duty on all local authorities and health boards to produce a regular plan which details the funded advocacy provision in their area.

In Fife, it is the responsibility of the Health and Social Care Partnership to commission the advocacy services required to meet these statutory responsibilities. The Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 reflects on our achievements since the last Advocacy Strategy 2018 to 2021 and sets priorities for the period 2023 to 2026. This Strategy details:

- how we will meet our statutory obligations,
- how we will embed the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) principles and standards into our advocacy services and,
- how we will achieve our national and local advocacy outcomes.

Introduction and Context

Welcome to the refreshed Advocacy Strategy for Fife Health and Social Care Partnership for the period 2023 to 2026. The Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 builds on the priorities and improvement work identified within our current Advocacy Strategy 2018 to 2021.

This document sets out the context in which we will develop our approach to meeting our statutory obligations in relation to independent advocacy provision as well as how we will meet our national and local outcomes and local priorities in relation to advocacy services. The refreshed Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 also takes account of our vision and strategic priorities in our newly published Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026, available on our website here: www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/publications.

The introduction of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act (Scotland) 2003 created statutory rights for some people to have access to independent advocacy services. Since then, the value and importance of advocacy services can be seen threaded through all social care legislation. In 2010, the Scottish Government imposed a duty on all local authorities and health boards to produce a regular plan which detailed the funded advocacy provision in their area. In Fife this plan is the responsibility of Fife Health and Social Care Partnership.

Our Advocacy Strategy 2018 to 2021 identified a number of key objectives and supporting actions to deliver these objectives. The table on page five shows the areas where progress and achievement has been delivered, these are indicated with a tick. There are a number of other areas where development work has taken place, but more work is required to reach full delivery of the supporting actions, these have been identified as 'ongoing'.

It is important to note that during the period that the Advocacy Strategy 2018 to 2021 spanned, the coronavirus pandemic resulted in a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals, their families and carers, and their communities. There was also a significant impact on our usual levels of service delivery as our workforce changed and adapted to the pressures of a quickly changing social care landscape. The coronavirus pandemic, and necessary reallocation of essential resources, is one of the main reasons that some of the supporting actions were not achieved in full. All advocacy providers did continue to provide frontline advocacy support right through the pandemic, immediately responding with new ways of supporting people remotely to ensure vulnerable people had their voices heard and appropriate supports.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the Partnership had established a Joint Advocacy Planning Group (JAPG). The JAPG had overall responsibility for ensuring that the Advocacy Strategy and supporting Action Plan was implemented effectively during the period 2018 to 2021. The JAPG included representation from Fife Advocacy Forum, Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Fife, Fife Council Housing Services and Police Scotland. The last meeting of the JAPG took place in January 2020. Due to the demands of the social care landscape at this time, the JAPG has not continued. The Partnership is keen to reinstate the JAPG as a key priority to support the delivery of the priorities and actions detailed in the Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026.

Fife Advocacy Strategy 2018 to 2021: Areas for ongoing Improvement

1	Objective one: To ensure that a wider range of people are eligible to receive advocacy services.	
1.1	Work in partnership with Fife Advocacy Forum and local advocacy organisations to review the eligibility criteria to advocacy services for adults and older people to ensure they are fit for purpose and includes access for carers.	✓
1.2	Monitor and review the impact of the eligibility criteria in terms of the service demand, service delivery and organisational capacity within the existing Monitoring and Evaluation framework. Make appropriate recommendations on any subsequent changes deemed necessary.	Ongoing
1.3	Further improve access to advocacy services for children and young people in Fife attending a Children's Hearing, building on the recent pilot in Fife and in line with Scottish Government guidance.	Ongoing
2	Objective two: To ensure that people can access a wider range of advocacy services.	
2.1	Tender and award a new professional advocacy contract for the period 2018-21 in line with the currently agreed eligibility criteria.	✓
2.2	Develop and implement Service Level Agreements for local advocacy providers to cover the period April 2018 to March 2021. This will include fully incorporating the aims and objectives of the advocacy strategy and existing eligibility criteria, and any appropriate updates in relation to changes in policy, legislation and guidance.	✓
2.3	Monitor and evaluate the ongoing impact of changes to contractual and Service Level Agreement arrangements. Consider further improvement of the advocacy services as required.	✓
2.4	Ongoing consideration of opportunities to further develop services for children and young people.	Ongoing
3	Objective three: To ensure more people are aware of what advocacy is, how it can benefit them, what advocacy services are available and how to access them.	
3.1	In partnership with Fife Advocacy Forum develop a communication strategy to ensure a wide reach using a variety of communication methods to include the use of websites, information leaflets, posters, and use of social media, awareness campaigns and other media as appropriate.	Ongoing
3.2	Make available appropriate training and awareness raising on the range of advocacy services available in Fife and how to access these services for frontline practitioners, including social workers, clinicians, teachers, police and independent and voluntary sector organisations.	✓
3.3	Establish appropriate links between the advocacy strategy and other key related strategies, including transitions for young people with special needs. These include the Carer's Strategy, Mental Health Strategy, Dementia Strategy, and Adult Support and Protection, to ensure the awareness and promotion of advocacy.	✓
3.4	Ensure an ongoing programme of consultation and participation with looked after children.	Ongoing
3.5	Through the Joint Advocacy Planning Group (JAPG) and Fife Advocacy Forum review and update information on advocacy services available to people in Fife	✓
3.6	In partnership with the Children's Rights Strategy Group promote further awareness of children's rights across Fife.	✓
4	Objective four: To ensure that local advocacy services are provided with appropriate support in order to help them develop their services in line with this strategy.	
4.1	The JAPG will oversee the development and implementation of the refreshed strategy and ongoing coordination of advocacy services in Fife over the period 2018 - 2021. Progress on implementation will be reported to the Senior Leadership Team and the Fife Health & Social Care Partnership Integrated Joint Board.	✓
4.2	The Fife Advocacy Forum will represent and coordinate the views and needs of local advocacy providers, service users and other key stakeholders with an interest in advocacy services in Fife and ensure these are represented to the JAPG.	✓
4.3	The JAPG will work with the Fife Advocacy Forum to develop a suitable work plan to enable them to support organisations to build capacity, develop their services and implement the requirements of this strategy.	✓
4.4	Through allocation of Patient's Rights monies we will make available resources to support the work of the Advocacy Forum and enable them to deliver their work plan objectives	✓

4.5	The JAPG will monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of the advocacy strategy for Fife under the existing Monitoring and Evaluation framework and provide appropriate recommendations for future refinement of advocacy service provision in Fife.	Ongoing
4.6	Through the JAPG we will review, evaluate and make recommendations on changes to policy or guidance that have a bearing on advocacy provision in Fife, and incorporate any necessary changes within the monitoring and evaluation arrangements	Ongoing
4.7	Through contracts monitoring arrangements we will ensure advocacy services deliver in line with advocacy contract and Service Level Agreement requirements. This will ensure budgetary and financial oversight in line with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework requirements.	✓

In addition to the progress detailed above, Fife Advocacy Forum were also involved in a number of other improvements and developments:

- **Logic Model** – The logic model was developed to measure and demonstrate the impact of independent advocacy and how that impact maps to local and national outcomes. More detail on the logic model can be see under the ‘national outcomes’ section of this strategy.
- **E-Learning Module** – Fife Advocacy Forum contributed to the development of the learningnexus ‘Advocacy in Fife’ e-learning module.
[Course: Advocacy in Fife \(learningnexus.co.uk\)](https://learningnexus.co.uk)
- **NHS Advocacy Policy launch events** – Fife Advocacy Forum were involved in several events at a variety of NHS sites across Fife to launch the NHS Fife Advocacy Policy in 2019.



Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership has a three-year 'Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026' that sets out the future direction of all health and social care services across Fife. This includes how the nine National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for Health and Social Care will be delivered locally, along with the six Public Health Priorities for Scotland.

The Partnership's Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026 is available on our website here:

www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/publications



National Outcomes

We have a range of national and local performance measures that allow us to measure how well we are doing against local and national targets. The National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for Health and Social Care and the Public Health Priorities for Scotland are shown below.

National Health and Social Care Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

1. People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.
2. People, including those with disabilities or long-term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community.
3. People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.
4. Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.
5. Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.
6. People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being.
7. People using health and social care services are safe from harm.
8. People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.
9. Resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services.

Public Health Priorities for Scotland

1. A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities.
2. A Scotland where we flourish in our early years.
3. A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing.
4. A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
5. A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all.
6. A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.

Fife Health and Social Care Strategic Priorities

The Partnership's Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026 sets out the health and social care vision for Fife, this includes our five identified strategic priorities which support achievement of the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and the Public Health Priorities for Scotland.

Local - A Fife where we will enable people and communities to thrive.

Sustainable - A Fife where we will ensure services are inclusive and viable.

Wellbeing - A Fife where we will support early intervention and prevention.

Outcomes - A Fife where we will promote dignity, equality and independence.

Integration - A Fife where we will strengthen collaboration and encourage continuous improvement.



The **Advocacy Strategy** has been developed to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan which states:

'Fife Health and Social Care Partnership is committed to promoting dignity, equality and independence for the people of Fife. Our Strategic Plan and collection of supporting strategies will ensure that we continue to work effectively with partners, local communities, and individuals, to challenge sources of inequality such as discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to promote equality of opportunity for all'

Independent advocacy services are critical to safeguarding and empowering those who are most vulnerable and at risk and enabling them to express their views and have their voice heard. The Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 sets out how we will provide independent advocacy services in Fife and how we will continue to improve awareness of and access to services to ensure better outcomes for people who are unable to speak up for themselves.

The Advocacy Strategy is identified as one of the Strategic Plan’s nine transformational strategies.



Medium-Term Financial Strategy

The financial position for public services continues to be challenging and the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) must operate within significant budget restraints and pressures. It is therefore critical that our resources are targeted at the delivery of the strategic priorities identified in the Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026. To support this the IJB have developed the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which sets out the resources available and ensures that they are directed effectively to help deliver the outcomes identified in the Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026. The MTFS will inform decision making and actions required to support financial sustainability in the medium term.

Our advocacy service provision will be delivered in accordance with the MTFS and the funds that are made available to meet our statutory obligations in relation to advocacy provision and our local and national outcomes in relation to independent advocacy.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy can be seen under the publications section of our website: www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/publications.

Locality Planning Approach



An important part of Fife health and social care integration was the creation of localities, bringing decision making about health and social care local priorities closer to communities. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 puts in place the legislative framework to integrate health and social care services in Scotland. Section 29(3)(a) of the Act requires each Integration Authority to establish at least two localities within its area.

Localities provide one route, under integration, for communities and professionals (including GPs, acute clinicians, social workers, nurses, Allied Health Professionals, pharmacists, and others) to take an active role in, and provide leadership for, local planning of health and social care service provision. Promoting equality and improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for the people in Fife is at the heart of locality planning.

Our understanding of our seven localities across Fife is taken from:

- Area Profiles – both national and local data and statistics.
- Stakeholder Engagement – experience and knowledge of people who use services and staff working in the localities.

Our Locality Core Groups support the Partnership to achieve its national and local advocacy outcomes and our advocacy strategy priorities by highlighting any identified need(s) for specific advocacy service provision in a particular locality. The locality core groups are an invaluable source of local information on unmet need. The locality planning approach demonstrates a commitment to:

- Collaborative Working.
- Supporting and enabling better care co-ordination.
- Capacity building in communities.
- Forging better connections to support integrated working.

More detail on the Partnerships locality planning approach including links to the current locality guidance documents is available on our website:

www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/publications.

Legal and Strategic Context

Health Boards and local authorities have a statutory responsibility under a range of pieces of legislation affecting both children and adults to provide access to independent advocacy for specific groups of people. In Fife, it is the responsibility of the Health and Social Care Partnership to commission the advocacy services required to meet our statutory responsibilities.

The legal and strategic context in which advocacy operates is summarised in the table below:

<p>Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003</p> <p>This Act imposed a duty on local authorities and health boards to collaborate to ensure the availability of independent advocacy services in their area. The Act also gave everyone with mental illness, learning disability, dementia and related conditions the right to access independent advocacy support.</p>	<p>Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007</p> <p>The Act states that local authorities must have regard to the importance of the provision of independent advocacy services for adults at risk of harm.</p>
<p>Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015</p> <p>This Act builds on the rights of the 2003 Act by imposing a requirement on health boards and local authorities to tell the Mental Health Welfare Commission how they have ensured access to advocacy services covering a specific period and how they plan to do so in the future.</p>	<p>Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000</p> <p>The Act states that a Sheriff at a hearing must 'take account of the wishes and feelings of the adult...so far as they are expressed by a person providing independent advocacy'.</p>
<p>Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011</p> <p>This Act allows for the provision of a Patient Advice and Support Service, which includes directing people to various types of support including advocacy services.</p>	<p>Carers Act (Scotland) 2016 and associated National Carers Strategy (December 2022)</p> <p>Both the Carers Act and the associated National Carers Strategy recognise the importance of advocacy provision for carers</p>
<p>Getting it Right for Every Child (2008) (GIRFEC)</p> <p>GIRFEC sets out a consistent operating framework for people who work with children and young people. It places the child at the centre of decision making, including providing support to allow the child to express their feelings and options. This can include, but is not restricted to advocacy support.</p>	<p>Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014</p> <p>The Act put the UNCRC into a Scottish statute for the first time. It encourages Scottish Ministers and public bodies to consider children's rights and requires them to prepare reports on what they are doing progress children's rights.</p>

<p>Children’s Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011</p> <p>This Act imposes that the chairing member of a Children’s Hearing must inform the child of the availability of children’s advocacy services.</p>	<p>Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004</p> <p>The Act provides the right of advocacy to a child’s parents or a young person at an Additional Support Needs Tribunal.</p>
<p>The Mental Health Welfare Commission ‘The Right to Advocacy’</p> <p>Recommendations from the MHWC ‘The Right to Advocacy’ review have been considered in the development of this Strategy.</p>	<p>Children (Scotland) Act 1995</p> <p>The Act states that children under the age of 18 are entitled to have an advocate or other representative present at a Children’s Hearing.</p>
<p>Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance</p> <p>Provides independent advocacy principles, standards and a toolkit for demonstrating the impact of advocacy services for use by service providers as a self-assessment tool.</p>	

Review of Relevant Key Legislation

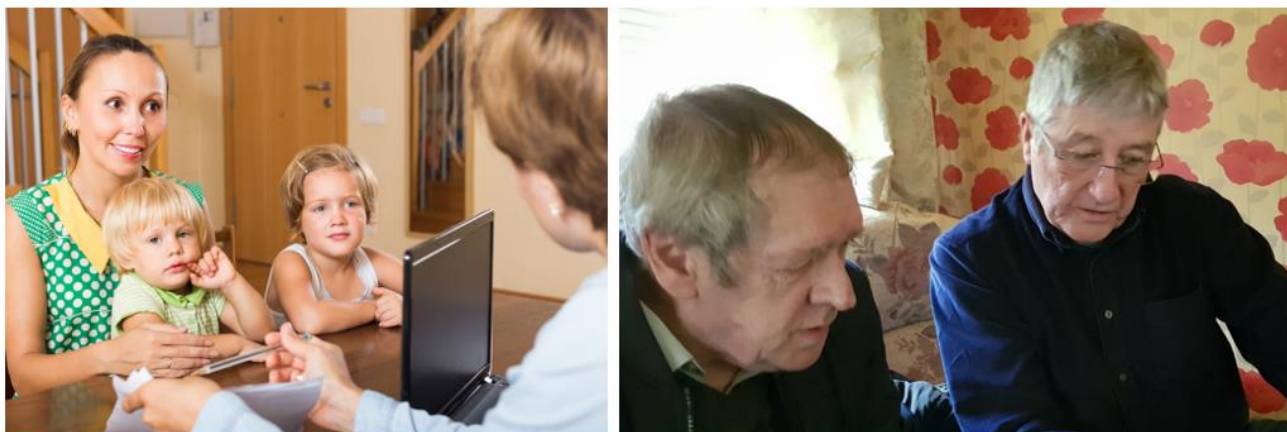
In 2022, the Scottish Government asked for an independent review of three key pieces of legislation relevant to this Advocacy Strategy, these are:

- Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.
- Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.
- Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

The aims of this review were to ‘improve the rights and protections of persons who may be subject to the existing provision of mental health, incapacity or adult support and protection legislations as a consequence of having a mental disorder’, and to ‘remove barriers to those caring for their health and welfare’.

There are a number of recommendations from this review that relate to advocacy, the Partnership is committed to continuing to work with the Scottish Government and the Mental Health Welfare Commission as the plans to implement these recommendations develop. A full list of the recommendations arising from this review can be seen in the Participation and Engagement Report at [Appendix 3](#).

What is Independent Advocacy?



Independent Advocacy is a way to support people to have a stronger voice and have as much control as possible of their own lives.

Advocacy can be defined as speaking up for, or acting on behalf of, yourself or another person. This can include helping someone to:

- Understand and protect their rights.
- To resolve problems, and
- To express their views in an effective and appropriate way.

The Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2003 states that advocacy is independent if it is not provided by any of the following:

- The relevant local authority.
- The relevant health board.
- Any members of the above for example: employees.
- Any person providing direct health and social care services to the person who is to be provided with advocacy on behalf of any of the above (including independent or voluntary sector organisations providing such services on behalf of the statutory body).

It is important to also distinguish what advocacy is not:



The Need for Advocacy

Independent advocacy services are designed to ensure that people’s views are taken into consideration, particularly when decisions are being made about them. They also help people to understand their own rights, enable them to make informed choices and allow them to express themselves clearly.

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Fife and Fife Council staff are most likely to encounter independent advocacy in formal settings, for example when supporting someone at a Mental Health Tribunal, Child Protection Hearing or during an Adult Protection Investigation.

The concept of ‘independence’ is key to the success of an advocate, an independent advocate must not be involved in providing any other services to the person receiving the advocacy support. The independent advocates loyalty lies with the person that they are supporting (often referred to as the ‘advocacy partner’).

Our provision of Advocacy services in Fife are in place to meet our statutory obligations, national and local advocacy outcomes and to ensure that people’s voices are heard. We want individuals who require advocacy support to have as much control as possible over choices about their own lives.

Types of Advocacy

There are many different types of advocacy, the table below defines the most common types of independent advocacy and the types of advocacy service provision that are available in Fife.

Further detail on the different Advocacy Services that are available in Fife can be seen in the 'Fife Advocacy Services' section of this document and also within the Advocacy in Fife booklet which is developed and updated regularly by Fife Advocacy Forum.

Professional (Issue-Based) Advocacy	<p>This type of advocacy is professional, and issue based. A professional advocate will provide expert, specialist knowledge to help someone to have their say and resolve a specific issue. There is no long-term relationship between the professional advocate and their advocacy partner.</p> <p>This type of advocacy is closely associated with formal support for Mental Health tribunals, Child Protection hearings and other such statutory functions.</p>
Citizen Advocacy	<p>This is a person-based independent advocacy service that usually (but not always) takes place on a longer-term basis. The advocate is usually an unpaid volunteer, who builds a trusting relationship with their advocacy partner and supports them to resolve any issues they have in order to ensure they have an active life within the community.</p>
Non instructed Advocacy (professional or citizen)	<p>Non-instructed advocacy happens when a person who needs an independent advocate cannot tell the advocate what they want. This may be because the person has complex communication needs or has a long-term illness or disability that prevents them from forming or clearly stating their wishes and desires. This usually takes place with people who have dementia or profound and/or severe learning difficulties.</p>
Group Advocacy (Collective Self-Advocacy)	<p>Group advocacy is designed to allow people with the same concerns, issues or experiences to provide support to each other and to work together to highlight issues and campaign for improvement.</p> <p>This type of independent advocacy creates the opportunities for people to develop skills and confidence to be able to represent their own thoughts, feelings and choices for themselves on both a collective and individual basis and encourages debate and discussion within the group to represent views, preferences and experiences.</p>



Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is the national intermediary organisation supporting and promoting independent advocacy across Scotland. The aims of the SIAA are to raise awareness about the value and impact of independent advocacy ultimately with a view to widen access to independent advocacy for all people who need it in Scotland.

The SIAA also works to influence legislation, policy and practice in relation to independent advocacy. The SIAA's vision is:

We believe that everyone who needs independent advocacy should have access to it. Independent advocacy must be of the highest possible standard.

In recognition that all independent advocacy organisations share the same principles, the SIAA have developed a document detailing independent advocacy principles, standards and code of best practice. This has been developed to ensure that independent advocacy is being delivered consistently across Scotland and that it is of the highest possible standard. It is the Partnership's expectation that our advocacy service providers ensure that these principles, standards and code of best practice are being consistently applied and adhered to. The SIAA principles and associated standards can be seen at [Appendix 1](#) and also on the SIAA's website at: [Independent Advocacy Principles, Standards & Code of Best Practice - Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance \(siaa.org.uk\)](https://www.siaa.org.uk/independent-advocacy-principles-standards-code-of-best-practice)

The SIAA's Code of Best Practice is separated into a list for an advocate and a list for an advocacy service provider, again the full code of best practice can be viewed on the SIAA's website: [Independent Advocacy Principles, Standards & Code of Best Practice - Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance \(siaa.org.uk\)](https://www.siaa.org.uk/independent-advocacy-principles-standards-code-of-best-practice)

National Outcomes for Advocacy

In 2019 the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) underwent a period of consultation with its members to agree three **Independent Advocacy National Outcomes** shown below:

Outcome 1

Independent advocacy enables people to be better informed about their rights, as well as understanding their needs and wishes and the choices they have. It increases their agency and power to choose their own actions freely, as much as possible.

Outcome 2

Independent advocacy supports people to recognise, understand and challenge power imbalances that influence their lives. It enables them to challenge these imbalances, in order to try and realise their rights, needs and wishes.

Outcome 3

Independent advocacy supports people to know that their voice is heard and their needs and wishes are understood.



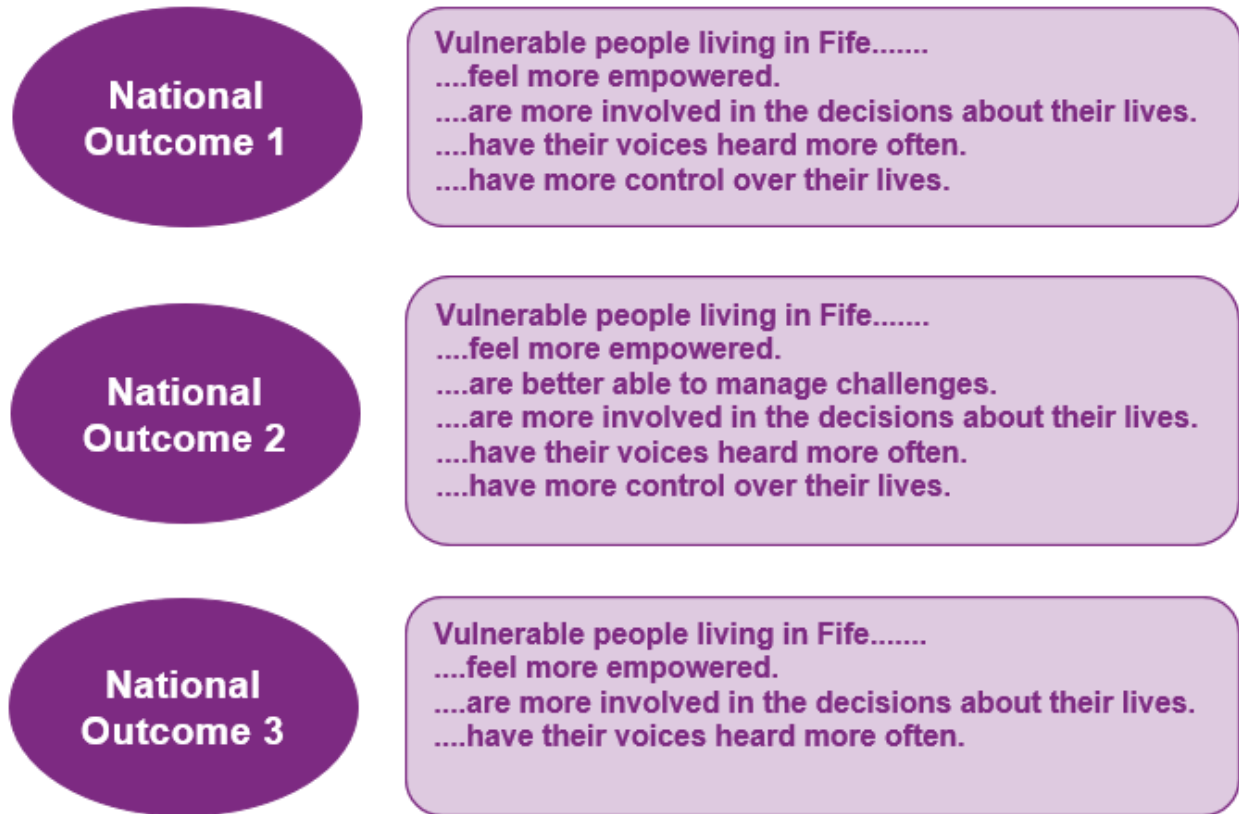
The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance have also developed a toolkit for demonstrating the impact of independent advocacy. This toolkit supports advocacy providers to measure and report on both Independent Advocacy National Outcomes and individual organisational outcomes. The SIAA expects all members to measure and report on Independent Advocacy National Outcomes.

The SIAA are currently (April 2023) working with their members to develop an outcomes framework; however, it is understood that the outcomes framework will look to incorporate the current principles and standards, national outcomes, code of best practice and toolkit into one single outcomes framework document. There is no intended change to the principles, standards, national outcomes and code of best practice as a result of the outcomes framework development work.

Fife Advocacy Forum – A Logic Model for Independent Advocacy

In March 2020 Fife Advocacy Forum developed a logic model to demonstrate the impact of independent advocacy and how that impact maps to local and national outcomes. This model has strengthened reporting by mapping the national independent advocacy outcomes to the local independent advocacy outcomes. The diagram below shows the local outcomes that support the delivery of the national independent advocacy outcomes.

LOCAL OUTCOME MAPPING



It is understood that the Logic Model will be further developed following approval of this refreshed Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 to ensure alignment to:

- Fife Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026.
- Any relevant outcomes from the Re-imagining Third Sector Project, and
- Fife refreshed Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026.

More detail on the Re-imagining Third Sector Project can be read in the 'monitoring and review' section of this strategy.

Advocacy Priorities

Our Advocacy Strategy identifies the following five priorities to enable achievement of both our local and national outcomes and to deliver on our statutory obligations in respect of advocacy provision in Fife. These five high level priorities are supplemented by a delivery plan which details the specific actions that we will take to achieve our priorities. Our delivery plan also includes a number of additional priorities identified via discussion with Fife Advocacy Forum and as a result of our consultation and engagement activity. Our delivery plan for year one of this strategy can be seen at [Appendix 2](#).

Advocacy Strategy Priorities

Priority	The changes we need to make	What will success look like?	Where we want to be in 2026
1	We will complete an extensive gap analysis of our Advocacy Service provision and identify measures that will improve access and availability of Advocacy Services in Fife.	Completion of a gap analysis of Advocacy Service provision which will inform future planning for Advocacy Services.	An improvement in people's experience of access and availability of Advocacy Services in Fife evidenced by positive feedback and increased service user satisfaction.
2	We will work in partnership with Fife Advocacy Forum and other advocacy organisations to develop an effective communication strategy and raise awareness of Advocacy Services using a wide variety of communication methods.	Development and delivery of a robust communication strategy and an effective awareness raising campaign.	More people will be aware of what advocacy is, how it can benefit them, what advocacy services are available and how to access them. Evidenced through an increase in the number of referrals to advocacy organisations.
3	We will review our Service Level Agreements with local advocacy providers to ensure that these are fully reflective of the aims and objectives of the Advocacy Strategy and incorporate any necessary changes in policy, legislation, and guidance.	Completion of a review of Service Level Agreements with advocacy providers and development of a new SLA template where appropriate.	Service Level Agreements will be in place with advocacy providers (as appropriate) that are reflective of the Advocacy Strategy, current policy, legislation and guidance.
4	We will work in partnership with our advocacy providers to review eligibility criteria	Completion of a review of eligibility criteria to advocacy services ensuring that the	Provision of eligibility criteria across Fife which meets the full range of advocacy service requirements as well as

	with a view to expanding the range of people who are eligible to receive advocacy services.	criteria are fit for purpose and are inclusive of all equality groups.	meeting our legal obligations, including the Equality Act and Fairer Scotland Duty.
5	We will renew our independent professional advocacy contract to ensure provision of a comprehensive independent advocacy service which adheres to our legislative requirements and aligns with the priorities within our Advocacy Strategy.	Refresh and renewal of the Partnership's Advocacy Contract in accordance with current and identified future needs.	Delivery of a comprehensive professional independent advocacy contract which adheres to legislative requirements and meets the advocacy needs of the people of Fife.

Monitoring and Review

Mental Health Welfare Commission

There is a duty placed on Health Boards and local authorities under the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015 to provide the Mental Health Welfare Commission (MHWC) with information about mental health (including dementia) and learning disability advocacy services, in relation to how these services have been provided and what plans are in place for future services. The information we provide to the MHWC includes details of the advocacy services that have been provided over the previous two years and the advocacy services that will be provided in the two years following the update. The information provided includes advocacy services for children, young people and adults. Fife's most recent submission to the MHWC was submitted in September 2022 and the collective findings from all returns were published in April 2023 and can be viewed on the MHWC website: www.mwcsot.org.uk

Contract and Service Level Agreement Monitoring

The Health and Social Care Partnership have a dedicated team who carry out quality assurance and contract monitoring of advocacy services. Commissioned advocacy services via grant awarded funding to third sector providers are subject to monitoring in line with Fife Council's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework whilst our contracted providers are subject to contract monitoring via our contractual terms and conditions.

Our contract monitoring activity allows the Partnership to work with and provide support to voluntary and independent sector organisations, ensures organisations have good governance and control systems, ensures that there is a mechanism in place to measure how well organisations are meeting their agreed objectives and provides the Partnership with a framework to demonstrate that public money is being spent efficiently and effectively.

Monitoring of the Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026

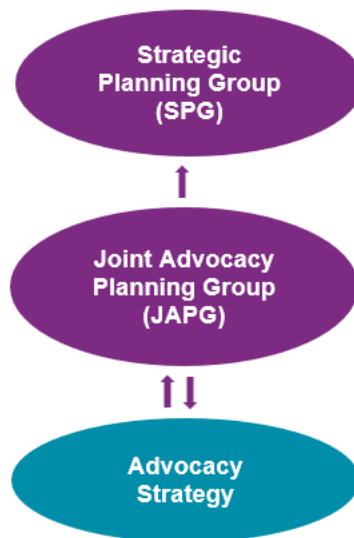
The Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026 is supported by nine transformational strategies and five enabling strategies. The Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 is identified as one of the Partnerships transformational strategies. A performance reporting framework has been developed to provide robust and regular updates for all of the strategies that support the Partnership's Strategic Plan.

Each strategy has an approved Delivery Plan that sets out how and when key priorities will be delivered. Quarterly updates for each strategy are provided to the Partnership's Strategic Planning Group, and the Integration Joint Board to enable effective performance monitoring.

Joint Advocacy Planning Group (JAPG)

One of the key recommendations resulting from the development of this strategy is the reinstatement of the Joint Advocacy Planning Group (JAPG).

The Advocacy Strategy Delivery Plan actions will be overseen by the Joint Advocacy Planning Group to ensure effective implementation and progress is made; progress will then be reported through the Strategic Planning Group as shown in the diagram below.



The JAPG will work in partnership with Fife Advocacy Forum and the individual advocacy organisations to ensure that the strategy is being implemented fully, and to identify and address any issues that occur. This will also include working with all stakeholder groups in order to consider additional areas for development or improvement and identifying ways to implement these recommendations.

Key to this work will be establishing strong links with the Partnership's Contract Team who are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the advocacy providers against the Contract and Service Level Agreements. As such, they are well placed to identify any issues with the implementation of the strategy, and to confirm that the services provided are meeting the specified requirements.

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) National Outcomes

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is a membership organisation responsible for promoting, supporting and defending independent advocacy in Scotland. It has the overall aim of ensuring that independent advocacy is available to any person in Scotland. The SIAA provides information and support, gathers and distributes information, represents advocacy organisations at various levels and raises awareness and understanding of independent advocacy across Scotland. The SIAA works to influence legislation, policy and practice in relation to independent advocacy.

In recognition that all independent advocacy organisations share the same principles, the SIAA have developed a document detailing independent advocacy principles, standards and code of best practice. This has been developed to ensure that independent advocacy is being delivered consistently across Scotland and that it is of the highest possible standard.

These principles, standards and code of best practice provide important foundation statements on practice. It remains the responsibility of independent advocacy organisations, commissioners and funders to put measures in place to ensure that the principles, standards and code of best practice are adhered to. Independent advocacy organisations should have their own organisational policies and procedures that reflect these documents.

It is the Partnership's expectation that our advocacy service providers ensure that these principles, standards and code of best practice are being consistently applied and adhered to. More information about the work of SIAA is available on their website: www.siaa.org.uk

Fife Logic Model

In March 2020 Fife Advocacy Forum developed a logic model to demonstrate the impact of independent advocacy and how that impact maps to local and national outcomes. The intention behind the development of this model is to support organisations in their monitoring and reporting by mapping the national independent advocacy outcomes to the local independent advocacy outcomes.

The Logic Model will require further development following approval of this refreshed Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 to ensure alignment to:

- Fife Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026.
- Any relevant outcomes from the Re-imagining Third Sector Project, and
- Fife refreshed Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026.

Re-imagining Third Sector Commissioning Project

In October 2021, the Re-imagining Third Sector Commissioning Project commenced. The aim of this project is to ensure that the third sector health and social care services that we fund, reflect our strategic priorities and the needs of local people. The project is about having the right processes and tools in place to support collaboration between the Partnership, the third sector and supported people, to plan services and work together to use the resources that we have to build capacity in our communities and respond to local needs and challenges effectively.

Through the Re-imagining Third Sector Project, we will develop a framework and the tools to enable the third sector to contribute more effectively to setting and responding to the strategic priorities of the Partnership and evidencing how these priorities are being met. The Partnership is committed to facilitating involvement from people receiving services from the third sector and developing the monitoring and evaluation process in a way that generates meaningful information about what is available and how local needs are being met with a view to sharing best practice service delivery models and responding collaboratively to address local challenges.

It is anticipated that this project will be completed in Summer 2023 and the recommendations and work completed throughout this project will be transferred into the Strategic Planning Team for further development and delivery in line with our Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026.

Fife Advocacy Services

Within Fife, advocacy services are commissioned in two ways:

- **Professional Advocacy Contract.**
This is a formal contract which is due to be re-tendered in 2023.
- **Service Level Agreements.**
There are a number of grant funded organisations that have service level agreements in place to deliver other types of advocacy in Fife.

Who is Eligible for Advocacy in Fife?

Adults (16+) and Older People (65+)

Adults and older people in Fife who are over the age of 16 can access advocacy if they are affected by:

- Disability
- Chronic illness
- Dementia
- Mental illness
- Learning disability
- Personality disorder

and need help to safeguard their:

- Well-being
- Rights
- Care
- Other interests

Children and Young People (under 18)

Children in Fife under the age of 18 can access advocacy if they are:

- Looked After in Secure Accommodation
- Looked After in Residential Care
- Looked After at Home/Kinship Care
- Looked After in Foster Care
- Subject to a child protection case conference.

The table below shows the funded Fife Advocacy Services for 2023 to 2024, including the type(s) of advocacy that the organisation provides and the age range.

Organisation	Types of Advocacy	Age Range	Locality area of operation
Barnardo's Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual • Collective • Non instructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 18 with mental issues, learning disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Wide
Circles Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual • Collective • Non instructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Wide
Dunfermline Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen • Non instructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people from 16 to 65 who meet the eligibility criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West Fife • Dunfermline • Cowdenbeath
Equal Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective • Non instructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 18 with mental issues, learning disability (from 16) • Adults up to 65 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levenmouth • Kirkcaldy • Glenrothes
Fife Carers Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults up to 65 • Adults over 65 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Wide
Fife Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults over 65 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Wide
Fife Young Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual • Collective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Carers up to age 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Wide
Include Me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen • Non instructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 18 with mental issues, learning disability (from 16) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Fife

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults up to 65 	
Kindred Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Non instructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families with children with additional support needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife Wide
People First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Collective Non instructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 18 with mental issues, learning disability (from 16) Adults up to 65 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife Wide

Carers Funding

Fife have advocacy services in place that are funded specifically from carers funding to support carers with advocacy service requirements, carers specific funding has been awarded to the following organisations:

- Fife Carers Centre.
- Fife Circles Network.
- Fife Forum.
- Fife Young Carers.
- Kindred Advocacy.

Children, Young People and Families

Children's Rights Service

The Children's Rights Service aims to ensure that a child's rights are fully taken into account when decisions are made about them. Within Fife, the Children's Rights Service is focussed on providing support for Looked After Children, and children subject to a Child Protection Case Conference. The Children's Rights Service supports children to express their views and wishes in all decisions affecting them, enabling them to contribute:

- At Looked After Child Reviews.
- At Children's Hearings.
- At other complex meetings.
- To their Statutory Child's Plans.

Article 12 of the UNCRC and section 122 of the Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011 states that every child has the right to be heard in matters affecting them and to participate in the life of their family, community and society, this is particularly important for children and young people who are looked after due to formal measures. Key rights for children within the UNCRC include:

- Protection Rights - to be safe.
- Provision Rights - to be well looked after.
- Participation Rights - to have your say and be listened to.

Children's rights and their participation in the decision making affecting them is central to the Plan for Fife 2017 to 2027 and the Children's Services Partnership Plan. The Children's Rights Service model has been developed in line with legislation, policy, evidence and research to improve outcomes for children and young people in Fife who are looked after:

- At home.
- Away from home, in a foster/residential or secure placement.
- In kinship care, or
- In continuing care.

The service is underpinned by the guiding principles specific to rights in the UNCRC (Article 2,3,6,12):

- Non-discrimination.
- The best interests of the child.
- Right to life, survival and development.
- Right to express views, have them given due weight considering age and maturity.

Specific advocacy services are in place to support children, young people and families, these services are delivered by:

- Barnardo's.
- Circles Network.
- Fife Young Carers.
- Kindred Advocacy.

A description of the type of support that these organisations provide has been detailed in the table below for further information.

Barnardo's

Barnardo's provides a children's rights service to children and young people in a variety of situations including:

- Secure care.
- Purchased residential placements.
- Looked After children at home and in kinship care.
- Foster care.
- Children subject to multi-agency statutory Child's Plans.
- Children requiring advocacy support at Protection Conferences.
- Children and Young People Affected by Disability.
- Families involved in Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland.

Circles Network

Circles Network provides an advocacy service to children subject to compulsory measures under the mental health legislation and young people (over 16) meeting the eligibility criteria within the independent advocacy contract.

Fife Young Carers

Fife Young Carers provide support to young people who are also carers.

Kindred Advocacy

Kindred Advocacy provide support and advocacy for families of children with additional support needs.

References

Mental Health Welfare Commission. The Right to Advocacy Report.
[the_right_to_advocacy_march_2018.pdf \(mwcscot.org.uk\)](#)

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance. Principle, Standards & Code of Best Practice.
[SIAA-Principles-Final-2nd-print-run-with-ISBN.pdf](#)

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance. Measuring Impact Toolkit
[SIAA_Measuring_Impact_Toolkit.pdf](#)

Scottish Mental Health Law Review
[Homepage | Scottish Mental Health Law Review](#)

Independent Advocacy – A guide for commissioners
[Independent advocacy: guide for commissioners - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
HSCP Strategic Plan for Fife 2023 – 2026
[Fife-Strategic-Plan-2023-to-2026-FINAL.pdf \(fifehealthandsocialcare.org\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance Principles and Standards

Appendix 2 Delivery Plan

Appendix 3 Participation and Engagement Report

Revision History

Document Owner:	Integration Joint Board	Document Number:	IJB.021
Date Approved by IJB:		Revision Number:	0.1
Implementation Date:		Review Date:	

Appendix 1 Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance Principles and Standards

Principle 1 Independent advocacy is loyal to the people it supports and stands by their views and wishes.	
Standard	Independent advocacy follows the agenda of the people supported regardless of the views, interests and agendas of others.
Standard	Independent advocacy must be able to evidence and demonstrate its structural, financial and psychological independence from others.
Standard	Independent advocacy provides no other services, has no other interests, ties or links other than the delivery, promotion, support and defence of independent advocacy.
Principle 2 Independent advocacy ensures people's voices are listened to and their views are taken into account.	
Standard	Independent advocacy recognises and safeguards everyone's right to be heard.
Standard	Independent advocacy reduces the barriers people face in having their voice heard because of communication, or capacity, or the political, social, economic and personal interests of others.
Principle 3 Independent advocacy stands up to injustice, discrimination and disempowerment.	
Standard	Independent advocacy recognises power imbalances or barriers people face and takes steps to address these.
Standard	Independent advocacy enables people to have more agency, greater control and influence.
Standard	Independent advocacy challenges discrimination and promotes equality and human rights.



Our Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 is identified as one of the nine transformational strategies within our Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026.

Independent advocacy services are critical to safeguarding and empowering those who are most vulnerable and at risk and enabling them to express their views and have their voice heard. The Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026 and supporting Delivery Plan sets out how we will provide independent advocacy services in Fife, how we will achieve our local and national advocacy outcomes and how we will meet our statutory obligations in respect of advocacy service provision in Fife.

We will work closely with the Joint Advocacy Planning Group (JAPG), Fife Advocacy Forum and our partners in the third and independent sector to ensure that our Delivery Plan actions are achieved. The actions below are related to **year one** of the Advocacy Strategy 2023 to 2026, subsequent action plans will be developed throughout 2023.

STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN

Advocacy Strategy Delivery Plan 2023 – 2024

Responsible: Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning/Joint Advocacy Planning Group (JAPG)

Priority	Action/Activity	Lead	Resources needed (Internal/External)	Desired Outcome	Potential Risks	Evidence of Improvement	Improvement / Outcome	Anticipated Completion Date	Completion Date
	Final review and approval of Advocacy Strategy 2023 – 2026 and supporting documents (Delivery Plan, Risk Register, and EQIA).	Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning.	Senior Leadership Team Strategic Planning Group Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee. Integrated Joint Board.	Advocacy Strategy is approved.	Final draft is not approved/does not meet expectations.	Advocacy Strategy developed in partnership with Fife Advocacy Forum which has representation from our advocacy service providers. Targeted	A robust Advocacy Strategy 2023 – 2026 has been developed in line with our best practice Strategy Development Pack (Templates and Guidance)	SLT 10 th May SPG 17 th May FPS 6 th July IJB 28 th July	



						engagement with our partner providers and those who use advocacy services in Fife. Engagement feedback has been considered and incorporated into the Strategy. Strategy Development Pack has been used to develop the Advocacy Strategy.	and in line with our Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026. This outcome will achieve our statutory responsibilities and the Scottish Government duty to produce a regular plan that details the funded advocacy provision in our area.		
	Approved Advocacy Strategy is shared across HSCP and our Partner agencies.	Strategic Planning Team/Fife Advocacy Forum.	Support from HSCP Communications Team. Key contact distribution lists for our Partner agencies.	Advocacy Strategy is widely distributed resulting in increased awareness.	Strategy does not reach all areas of the Partnership or all of our Partners.	A plan will be developed to determine the best way to promote and embed the Advocacy Strategy.	Relevant staff across HSCP and our Partner agencies will have a robust understanding of our approach to Advocacy planning in Fife. This will also support raising	By October 2023	



							awareness of advocacy services across our workforce and partners.		
	Joint Advocacy Planning Group (JAPG) is re-instated.	Strategic Planning Team	Support from Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning to re-instate group. Members from stakeholder groups: Fife Advocacy Forum, HSCP, NHS Fife, Fife Council, Housing and Police.	The JAPG will oversee the Advocacy Strategy delivery plan actions and ensure that progress is being made and that actions are delivered.	Delivery plan is not achieved.	Progress being made on the identified actions in the delivery plan and achievement of the overall advocacy strategy priorities	Target completion dates are achieved for all actions and the overall advocacy strategy priorities are achieved.	September 2023	
	Review of Logic Model.	Fife Advocacy Forum	Fife Advocacy Forum	Logic model is reviewed and refreshed in line with the Advocacy Strategy 2023 -2026, HSCP Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026 and relevant outcomes from the Re-imagining	Logic model is not in alignment to new Strategic Priorities or local outcomes.	Support provided to Fife Advocacy Forum to refresh the Logic Model with links to the new Strategic Priorities for 2023 – 2026 and new local outcomes.	Refreshed Logic Model developed with links to the new Strategic Priorities for 2023 – 2026 and new local outcomes.	December 2023	



				third sector project.					
5	Renewal of our Independent Advocacy Contract	Service Manager, Quality Assurance/ Procurement Social Care Category support.	Fife Council, Procurement Support, HSCP staff support to evaluate tender responses.	Independent Advocacy Contract is renewed.	Existing contract extension could lapse with no new contract in place if this action is not delivered.	Service Manager to work with Procurement Social Care Category to develop a plan and timeline to achieve this action.	A new Advocacy Contract will be in place that supports our statutory obligations and achievement of the national and local advocacy outcomes.	Contract start date by January 2024	
	Review of Fife Advocacy Forum Funding	Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning/Joint Advocacy Planning Group	Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning/Joint Advocacy Planning Group/NHS Fife	Funding for the continuation of Fife Advocacy Forum is secured.	Funding isn't secured for the continuation of Fife Advocacy Forum.	Potential funding opportunities identified and progressed.	Funding secured for the continuation of Fife Advocacy Forum.	Funding to be secured by January 2024 for financial year 2024 – 2025.	

 Fife Health & Social Care Partnership Supporting the people of Fife together	Document Owner:	Strategic Planning Group	Document Number:	IJB.021
	Date Approved by SPG:	26/05/2023	Revision Number:	1.0
	Implementation Date:	26/05/2023	Review Date:	31/05/2024
	Print Date:	22/06/2023		
Document Title:	HSCP Advocacy Strategy 2023 - 2026			