

Independent Advocacy Services

Dumfries and Galloway Advocacy Service is commissioned by Dumfries and Galloway Health & Social Care to deliver services that are:

- Independent and professional;
- Provide individual (one to one) advocacy that is issue focused;
- Provide collective advocacy that is issue focused;
- Meet statutory requirements and Scottish Government priorities; and
- Have as a key principle 'Independence of mind, independence of place and independence of funding'.



We are commissioned to deliver the following services –

- Adult Generic Advocacy (18 and over)
- Adult Advocacy in terms of the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 (18 and over)
- Adult Collective Advocacy (18 and over)

The aim of the adult generic independent advocacy is:

- to promote empowerment of adult residents of Dumfries and Galloway who require help, in whatever context, to understand the options open to them, to enable them to make informed choices and/or to make their own views known.

The aim of the adult Mental Health Act independent advocacy is:

- as above, plus
- to provide independent advocacy to people with a mental disorder in accordance with the requirements of the Mental Health Act, enabling people to be empowered and their views heard.

The aim of adult collective advocacy is to provide independent is:

- to provide independent advocacy to a group of people who are all facing a common problem get together on a formal basis to support each other over specific issues. Individual members of the group may also support each other over specific issues. The group may campaign on an issue that affects them all. Being part of a collective advocacy group can help to reduce a person's sense of isolation when raising a difficult issue.

Service Objectives

1. To provide access to an advocacy service for all people regardless of location, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, faith/religion, or social background.
2. To match clients and advocates appropriate to each situation's needs, seeking specialist support where indicated and ensuring clients' comfort at all times.
3. To support people who, because of incapacity or communication difficulties, may not be able to express their needs or views.
4. To guide people towards self-advocacy and avoid creation of dependency.
5. To help clients to access and understand information relevant to them and make appropriate choices or decisions which give them fuller control of their lives.
6. To develop links with service providers, professionals and relevant support organisations to ensure clear understanding of the role of advocacy.
7. To provide access to advocacy in line with the prevailing legislation and Scottish Government guidance.

Further Information

- Dumfries and Galloway Advocacy Service is not able to support or speak on behalf of a client to the Media.
- Dumfries and Galloway Advocacy Service is not able to support clients with Employment Issues or give Benefits Advice and we do not attend Employment or Benefit Tribunals or Assessments.
- We are an issue-based service, and as such, once the clients' issue is finished we will contact them and/or their referrer about closing the case and if they have any further issues in the future they can come back to us at any time.

www.dgadvocacy.co.uk



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