

Easy Read



Charity No. SC035363

Company No. SC265395

On Your Side

2019

**Advocacy
Highland's
Easy Read
Annual Report
2019**



Shirley said:
Advocacy Highland
celebrates winning
the Inverness
Business Community
Award.



Thank you to all our funders



NHS Highland
Highland Cross



Ledingham
Chalmers



Drug & Alcohol Partnership
Local Improvement Team

Scottish Recovery
Consortium



Thanks also to the people
who
have given us donations.

Thank you to the Board of Directors
and to Sarah Joiner

We wish you well in
your new job





Sheilis said:

This has been a very difficult year but we are pleased that we now have a new five-year contract.



Thank You Clare for making everything run so smoothly in the office.



979 Referrals for 1:1 Advocacy. Most of our person centred team have been with us for more than 11 years.



Citizen Advocacy funding sadly ends in September but we will keep supporting the six successful partnerships.



**Lynda Thomson
NHS Highland and
All at EQUIOM**

Networking

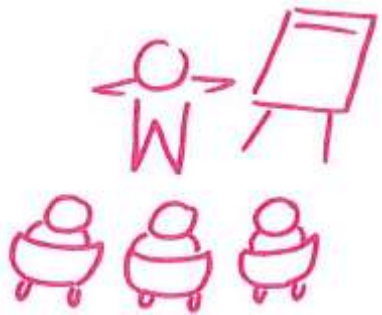


**We meet with people
from other organisations
including...**

- **Highland Third Sector Interface**
- **Highland Carers Advocacy**
- **Health & Happiness**
- **Social Work Students**
- **UHI Fresher's Fayre**
- **Business Enterprise**
- **SPIRIT Advocacy**
- **Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance**
- **People First Highland**
- **Transition Fair Drummond School**
- **Highland Drug & Alcohol Partnership Local Improvement Team**
- **Scottish Recovery Consortium**
- **Adult Support & Protection Committee**
- **Financial Harm Group**
- **Adult Social Care Practice Forum**

Training

Advocacy training
for volunteer
advocates



Other training includes:

- **Dementia Awareness**
- **LGBT Diversity & Inclusion**
- **Suicide Intervention & Prevention**
- **Child Protection**
- **Drug & Alcohol training**
- **Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership Conference**

Recovery Advocacy

We are delighted to have funding to provide Recovery Advocacy.



We are looking for volunteers with lived experience, who are good listeners and care about people



Would you like to volunteer to become an advocate supporting people with drug and alcohol addiction?

Please get in touch with us, training and expenses provided.



What People told us about their Advocacy Support.....



“The panel went really well and they agreed an increase in contact with my child” D

“Good as they are on your side” B



“I found the help and support from you was invaluable. I would certainly use advocacy again as it gave me a feeling of security when facing my ex-employers. Thank you for being there for me” P

I felt “very supported and I began feeling more confident in dealing with issues alone” AB



Philip's Story

"I saw an advocate when I was in hospital. She helped me to write down what I wanted to say at a tribunal.



On the day my solicitor, advocate and me worked as a team. I felt I got the best out of the meeting that I could get.

I know some people who feel lost dealing with the mental health process. I would recommend advocacy to anybody”.

Ron's Story.....



“It is a sad fact that without the help of Chris I would have been forced into a care home and our family life fragmented”.

Caithness & Sutherland



Allison Cowie
Area Co-ordinator
Caithness & Sutherland

We support people at different meetings e.g.

- **Mental Health Tribunals**
- **Care Programme Approach**
- **Adults with Incapacity**
- **Adult Support & Protection**
- **Social Work Reviews**
- **Child Protection**



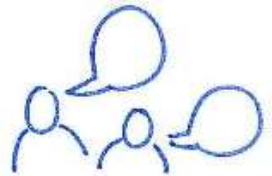
Allison says...

“Thanks to Hazel Advocate and Maggie Volunteer Advocate”

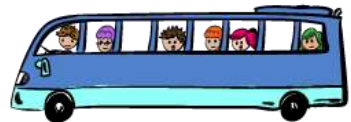
People Often Say, “Isn’t there anyone locally I can speak to?”

**Mr A waited months to see a
Psychologist in Inverness, he said,
“it’s some distance from Wick!”**

**Ms B is unable to find a
solicitor in Caithness, even
in Inverness. She is
dyslexic and cannot read
the paperwork. She said, “I need to
speak to someone locally, face to
face.”**



**Mr C is too anxious to
use public transport
so cannot go to
community groups for people with
autism. He feels he is “stuck.”**



**Hazel Curran
Advocate**

Inverness & Nairn

Linda Renton
Area Co-ordinator
Inverness & Nairn
Badenoch & Strathspey



Cuts in overnight care are affecting people, in their homes. An 'on call' service is offered, where care staff are in another house.

We have supported a number of people with learning disabilities who are very worried about losing their overnight live in carers.



Ross & Cromarty



Joanne Hammond
Area Co-ordinator
Ross & Cromarty



**Many other charities
have lost funding and no
longer provide the help
that they used to give so
we get more referrals
each month.**

Joanne says....

**“A special thanks to Chris
Volunteer Advocate.**

Chris has been with

Advocacy Highland for 10 years”



Lochaber



Val Bremner
Area Co-ordinator
Lochaber



Rachel Tonks
Advocate

My thanks to Rachel who did more advocacy in Lochaber so that I could work on new funding applications.

We are delighted to have funds for Recovery Advocacy

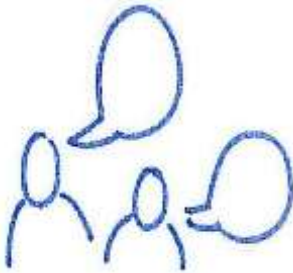


Skye & Lochalsh



Judy Foottit
Area Co-ordinator
Skye & Lochalsh

Sometimes people with dementia have to move into residential care. It is still very important to give the person a voice about the decisions being made about their life.



We may have to use non-instructed advocacy to find out from the people they are close to, what the person would say to the advocate if they could.

Judy says

“Many thanks to volunteer John for his sensitive and effective Advocacy support”

Mental Health Advocates



Maya Uddin



Dawn Kotschujew

Mental Health Officers tell us

“Advocacy provides a useful perspective. Comments made by patients’ highlight areas where the system might improve services”



“I think Advocacy is the only service which patients see as truly for them”

“I value Advocacy for having the professionalism to support people during some of the more challenging situations that life has to offer”

Citizen Advocacy



Maya Uddin
Citizen Advocacy
Co-ordinator



**Six Citizen
Advocacy Partnerships
working well.**



**A Big Thank You to all our
Citizen Advocacy Volunteers**

W's story

**"I've known my volunteer for
about 7 years now and it's
been absolutely great. We go
fishing and cycle a lot in the
summer.**



**I used to go swimming and to the gym
with him, but now I can go
on my own and have
helped my friends to join.
now go with my friends".**





*To Bill and Eleanor
our newest Volunteer Advocates*

*Thank
You*

*To all our Volunteer Advocates and
Directors who have been with us for
over 10 years.*

*Chris, Lorraine, Mary, Shirley, Moray,
Garry, Donnie, and Chris.*

**Thank You to....
EVERYONE in the
Advocacy Highland Team**



**We really could not do
all this without you.
You are a wonderful
group of people.**

Board of Directors



Shirley Bannister **Chairman**
Nairn

Frances Gunn **Company Secretary**
Caithness & Sutherland

Moray Macdonald **Treasurer**
Inverness

Chris Evans **Director**
Lochaber

Donald Fergusson **Director**
Skye & Lochalsh

Garry Robertson **Director**
Caithness & Sutherland

Sarah Joiner **Director**
Sutherland



**Advocacy Highland
2 Seafield Road
Inverness
IV1 1SG**



Tel: 01463 233460



www.advocacy-highland.org.uk

