



# Advocacy Highland Winter Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

Welcome to the **Winter 2024** edition of our newsletter!

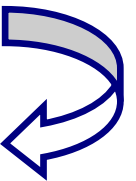
We are excited to share with you some exciting updates and news about our charity.

We are delighted to announce that NHS Highland has extended our main contract for a further two years until September 2026.

This year a new project called Highland Advocacy Partnership was introduced. This is a joint venture between Advocacy Highland and Partners in Advocacy, and is funded by Highland Alcohol & Drug Partnership. The service is for individuals aged 16+ living within a 25 mile radius of Inverness, who have lived or living experience of drug and alcohol.

We hope, funding permitting, to extend the service in the future.

We are  
delighted to welcome  
**new staff members  
and board directors!**



Welcome to our new  
Advocacy Workers:  
**Jackie Hand, Natasha  
Stephens, Mairi Levack, Vicky  
Gordon & Rebecca Hodgetts**

And to **Hetty MacPherson &  
Ethna Fergusson**, our new  
Board Members.



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## This year we bid farewell to Linda Renton

Linda, our advocacy co-ordinator for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey retired after an amazing 21 year tenure!



As our longest serving employee, Linda has made a significant contribution to our organisation. Throughout the years Linda has mentored and trained many staff members and volunteers passing on her vast knowledge and expertise.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Linda for her dedication, from everyone at Advocacy Highland and the many Advocacy Partners she has supported over the years.

While we will all miss Linda, we are happy that she can finally take a well-deserved break.

## Talking Mats training

Staff and Volunteers were delighted to receive Talking Mats training earlier this year with Nikki from Talking Mats Enterprise.

A Talking Mat is a visual communication framework which supports people with communication difficulties to express their feelings and views. It is very important to us that we are able to communicate effectively with as many individuals as we can. This training will be invaluable for some individuals that we work with.

**TalkingMats**  
Improving communication, improving lives



As always our work would not be possible without the continued support of our staff, volunteers, members and trustees. This year, with your support we helped a huge number of people to have their voice heard and be involved in decisions affecting their lives.



Top 5 issues people needed our support for:

1. Mental Health Care & Treatment intervention including Compulsory treatment orders and tribunals.
2. Delayed Hospital discharge due to lack of long-term care, residential or nursing home placements.
3. Guardianship orders.
4. Adults at risk of harm, particularly the elderly and financial abuse cases.
5. Child Protection.

Here is some feedback we received during the year...

"Thank you,  
you are the  
only support I  
have right  
now."

Thank you, thank you. If it wasn't  
for you I'd still be going round in  
circles. Thank you for being there."

"Can I please say thank you for all you  
have done for us over the years, it was  
difficult navigating the social work  
system and all the other issues, please  
look after yourself, you do an amazing  
job and help so many."

"I'm glad you came  
here today. You have  
enabled me to get my  
point over."



## CONTACT US



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|        |                |                   |
|--------|----------------|-------------------|
| Maya:  | CEO            | Tel: 07917 327714 |
| Clare: | Deputy Manager | Tel: 07771 225742 |

### Area Co-ordinators

|                                                      |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey: Main Office | Tel: 01463 233460 |
| Allison: (Caithness & Sutherland)                    | Tel: 07717 704639 |
| Joanne: (Ross & Cromarty)                            | Tel: 07717 704640 |
| Val: (Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh)                     | Tel: 07717 704635 |

### Advocacy Workers

|                                                    |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Natasha: (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey) | Tel: 07917 976967 |
| Mairi: (Caithness & Sutherland)                    | Tel: 07884 602848 |
| Hazel: (Caithness & Sutherland)                    | Tel: 07919 602617 |
| Rebecca: (Skye & Lochalsh)                         | Tel: 07717 730865 |
| Vicky: (Lochaber)                                  | Tel: 07742 261656 |

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