

Our Advocacy Workers...

The Partners in Advocacy (PiA) Team are carefully selected at interview and usually have an extensive background working with children and young people, mental health or additional support needs

All our staff are registered members of the Disclosure Scotland PVG scheme.

They undertake an comprehensive induction programme and ongoing training to keep informed of current legislation and good practice guidelines

They are bound by the Code of Practice of PiA and also the Principles & Standards of the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance. They must strictly observe confidentiality in their work and their loyalty is first and foremost with their Advocacy Partner

Want to make a referral?

Any individual may seek support from PiA: for themselves or for someone they know. Aged between 12-15 with an ASN. An agency may also approach PiA on behalf of a person as long as the permission of the person has been freely given



0330 533 0238



admin@pia.scot



Suite 2-20/21
Brook Street Business Hub
117 Brook Street
Glasgow, G40 3AP



PiAScotland



piascotland1



piascotland1

**Partners in
Advocacy**

Registered Company No. 185467
Scottish Charity No. SC027857

**Partners in
Advocacy**



Information for Relative/ Carers

Independent Advocacy for
Children & Young People

Aged 12-15 with Additional
Support Needs



Independent Advocacy is a free service which helps young people have their voices heard and their views taken into account when adults and professionals are making decisions about their lives

Can't I be my Child's Advocate?

An Advocacy Worker is a person free from the control or direction of other service providers and of the family and is able to think and act freely with, or on behalf of, another in order to defend or safeguard their rights without any other agenda.

Sometimes it may be that the relatives find it difficult to speak up for their loved ones. On occasion there may be differing views within the family or between person, their family and professionals about what is best.

An Advocacy Worker will not judge what is best for their partner or give advice. They will ensure that the young person has access to any specialist advice that is required for them to make their own decisions.

Most Importantly, the advocacy worker will stand with them even when their views are at odds with what others might deem as not to be in their best interest.

Using an advocacy worker helps clearly distinguish the views and goals of the child/ young person amidst those of others.

If the advocacy partner's wishes are not realised, their advocacy worker will also help them to understand why, and then to go on and discuss what other choices might need to be considered in order to move things forward



My Rights, My Say, is a National service for young people aged 12-15 with additional support needs in education

**What are the extended rights?
When a young person reaches their 12th birthday, they can:**

- Ask their school or local authority to find out if they need extra support
- Have a say in plans and decisions made about the support they get
- Access advocacy at meetings about their support needs to help share your views, question some plans or make an appeal about certain issues if they are unhappy with the support they get
- Be more involved in resolving disagreements about their support

An Advocacy Worker's job is to...

- ✓ Listen to the Child/ Young Person
- ✓ Find out what is important to them
- ✓ Speak up for them, their views and their rights
- ✓ Empower them to speak up for themselves
- ✓ Access information or signpost to specialist services to help them make informed decisions
- ✓ Safeguard vulnerable children and young people

Independent Advocacy is not....

- ✗ A legal service
- ✗ Being the voice of the parent
- ✗ Telling or advising a Child/ Young Person what to do
- ✗ Befriending
- ✗ Mediation or Counselling service
- ✗ Care and Support work - or a substitute for these
- ✗ Making decisions for someone
- ✗ Agreeing with everything the young person says
- ✗ Solving all their problems