

Fife Advocacy Forum

Supporting & Developing Advocacy Across Fife



MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Fife Advocacy Forum Newsletter. We have not issued a newsletter for some time, but that does not mean that the Fife Advocacy Forum has not been working away to ensure the ongoing provision of Independent Advocacy throughout Fife! In the time since the issue of the last newsletter the Forum has played a key role with NHS Fife and Fife Council to develop a new Advocacy Strategy which runs until March 2017.

The strategy was approved by the Health and Social Care Partnership in November 2013 and the official launch of this new Advocacy Strategy will take place on **28th May in the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes**. To book a place please contact Karen Rodger Karen.rodger@fife.gov.uk.

Fife Advocacy Forum

For readers who may not know the details surrounding the development of the Forum and its terms of reference we thought it might be helpful to explain them. The idea of an Advocacy Forum was developed by the Joint Strategic Advocacy Planning Group after a wide group of people and organisations expressed an interest in being involved in the planning of future Advocacy provision in Fife.

The Planning Group hosted a meeting in September 2011 to look at setting up an Advocacy Forum. It was agreed that the development of a Forum would be led by interested organisations and individuals but would have support from the statutory agencies (NHS Fife and Fife Council).

The Forum was subsequently founded and is chaired by Rachel Annand the Chief Executive Officer of Dunfermline Advocacy.

Purpose of the Forum

- To support the development of Advocacy across Fife;
- To be a place to share good practice along with information about the latest developments in Advocacy Practice; and
- To enable Advocacy Providers and users of advocacy to feed into the Joint Strategic Advocacy Planning Group and other relevant statutory bodies/groups.

What is Independent Advocacy?

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

Independent Advocacy helps safeguard and empower the most isolated and excluded people in Fife. Advocacy allows people to speak up when they have problems, to ensure their rights are protected, and to make sure that they are listened to.

More details about what Advocacy is about and the services provided in Fife can be found in our new Booklet. Copies will be available to download from our website very soon or by contacting the forum at admin@fifeadvocacyforum.org.uk.

Forum Roadshow

Following the official launch the Forum is planning a Roadshow later in the year. This Roadshow will visit a number of locations across Fife to highlight the importance of advocacy and how services can be accessed. Look out for more details soon!

Fife Advocacy Forum website

To keep up-to-date with Advocacy developments across Fife you can now access the Fife Advocacy Forum website at www.fifeadvocacyforum.org.uk. The website also includes details of all the Advocacy providers in Fife.

Your views are always welcomed

With a view to aiming to improve our communications we welcome your views on the website and content of this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to complete this online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/28DVZQP>.

Views, comments or suggestions can also be sent to Brenda MacPherson, admin@fifeadvocacyforum.org.uk. We welcome your constructive comments.