

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is something that one person provides in support of another. It is about:

- safeguarding people who are in situations where they are vulnerable
- speaking up for, or standing alongside, people who struggle to be heard - helping them to express their views and make their own decisions and contributions
- enabling people to make informed choices about, and remain in control of, their own social and health care

Professional and Independent Advocacy Service, providing issue-based Individual and Collective Advocacy support.



CONTACT

info.fife@circlesnetwork.org.uk
01592 645 360

VISIT US

New Volunteer House
16 East Fergus Place
Kirkcaldy
Fife
KY1 1XT

Unit 16
Ore Valley Business Centre
93 Main Street
Lochgelly
Fife
KY5 9AF

www.circlesnetwork.org.uk

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CIRCLES ADVOCACY

Circles Advocacy

Do you need help to speak up?
Would it help you to have an independent person explain things to you or to speak up for you?

Circles Advocacy helps people to:

- Have a say about the services they receive
- Understand their rights
- Get the right information to help them make choices
- Raise issues they are worried about
- Safeguarding people who are in situations where they are vulnerable

Advocacy in Fife can support you if you are 16 or over and living in Fife with:

- mental health issues
- learning disability
- personality disorder
- physical impairment
- acquired brain injury
- dementia
- autism
- chronic illness

We can also support:

- people receiving long-term citizen advocacy involved in statutory proceedings.
- children under 16 years who are subject to compulsory measures under the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.



How we work with you

We will meet you to talk about how we can help. We will listen to the concerns you have and tell you if we can help. We will agree a plan of how we will help you. We can support you with one or more problems.

A Confidential Service

We will keep what you say to us confidential. Your advocate will talk to you about our confidentiality policy.

We support isolated and excluded adults by:

- Promoting informed choice and opportunities.
- Challenging barriers to progress in modern Mental Health Care.
- Advocating for people without judgment and according to their expressed need.
- Acting in a safeguarding capacity for people's rights where issues of incapacity or communication difficulties arise.

We can provide you with support in communication with all relevant agencies and at:

- Tribunals
- Meetings
- Reviews
- CPAs
- Legal Proceedings

“
Do you need help speaking up?

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Examples of how we can help:

- We can help you find out more about your rights.
- We can go with you to meetings and help you raise any issues that are worrying you.
- We can help you to raise issues if you are not happy with a service you are receiving.

Circles Network Advocacy Project acts according to Advocacy Principles and Standards.