



Integration Joint Board

29th November 2018

This Report relates to
Item 8 on the Agenda

Strategic Advocacy Plan for Adults

(Paper presented by Linda Owen)

For Approval

Approved for Submission by	Vicky Freeman, Head of Strategic Planning
Author	Linda Owen, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Manager
List of Background Papers	The Right to Advocacy Report – Health and Social Care Senior Management Team May 2018
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Draft Strategic Advocacy Plan

SECTION 1: REPORT CONTENT

Title/Subject:	Strategic Advocacy Plan
Meeting:	Integration Joint Board
Date:	29 th November 2018
Submitted By:	Linda Owen, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Manager
Action:	For Approval

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 gives anyone with a mental disorder a right of access to independent advocacy. As well as this statutory duty, other legislation and guidance such as the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, recommends the availability of advocacy.
- 1.2 The Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015 builds on the right in the 2003 Act to independent advocacy support by requiring health boards and local authorities to tell the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) how they have ensured access to services up to now, and how they plan to do so in the future. The MWC produced their first report called 'The Right to Advocacy' in March 2018. The requirement to produce a Strategic Advocacy Plan was one of the recommendations within this report.
- 1.3 The report was discussed at both Health and Social Care Management Team and the Integration Joint Board (IJB) in May 2018. The IJB issued a direction in May 2018 to develop a Strategic Advocacy Plan for Adults by 31st December 2018. A final draft Strategic Advocacy Plan for Dumfries and Galloway is attached in Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **The Integration Joint Board is asked to:**
 - **Approve the draft Strategic Advocacy Plan for Adults.**
 - **Approve the completion of the direction 'Development of a Strategic Advocacy Plan for Adults', reference number IJBD1801**

3. Background

- 3.1 Independent advocacy is a way to help people have a stronger voice and to have as much control as possible over their own lives. An independent advocate supports an individual to represent their own interests or represents the views of an individual if the person is unable to do this for themselves. They provide support on specific issues and provide information but not advice. Independent Advocacy organisations are separate from organisations that provide other types of services.

- 3.2 Independent Advocacy is used by a variety of people in Dumfries and Galloway who need help to have their voice heard when using Health and Social Care Services. This type of service tends to support some of the most vulnerable members of society and can have an early intervention and prevention role by supporting people to resolve issues before they become a crisis.
- 3.3 The Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Strategic Plan (2018 - 2021) contains a commitment that
- 'We will make sure that people have access to Independent Advocacy if they want or need help to express their views and preferences.'*
- 3.4 While there are numerous individuals and organisations in Dumfries and Galloway who may 'advocate' on behalf of a person or a group of people, this is not Independent Advocacy.
- 3.5 Adult Independent Advocacy provision in Dumfries and Galloway was recently recommissioned and a new contract started on 1 April 2018. This contract includes the provision of both individual and collective advocacy (see glossary for definitions).
- 3.6 Independent Advocacy in this region is provided for adults by the 'Dumfries and Galloway Advocacy Service'.

4. Main Body of the Report

- 4.1 Following the issuing of a Direction from the IJB to produce a Strategic Advocacy Plan for Adults, engagement was undertaken with people who currently use Independent Advocacy Services and those who may wish to use the services in the future.
- 4.2 An online questionnaire was circulated, drop in sessions held in Dumfries and Newton Stewart and a focus group with people with learning disabilities were held in June and July 2018. There were 38 responses from all three methods. The responses included people who have used the services available as well as people who might use the service in the future.
- 4.3 All of the information collated during the engagement exercise has been used to inform the development of the Strategic Independent Advocacy Plan for Adults attached in Appendix 1. The plan was coproduced with the Dumfries and Galloway Advocacy Service using a suggested template by the Mental Welfare Commission.
- 4.4 Progress against the actions in the plan will be reported back to the relevant committee of the IJB once a year.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 A Strategic Independent Advocacy Plan for Adults in Dumfries and Galloway has been produced by engaging with people who use and who might use Independent Advocacy.
- 5.2 The production of this Independent Strategic Advocacy Plan completes the direction issued by the IJB in May 2018.

SECTION 2: COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

6. Resource Implications

6.1 There are no resource implications identified within this Report

7. Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy

7.1 This is in line with the IJB outcomes and priorities as outlined in the report.

8. Legal & Risk Implications

8.1 There is a legal requirement to provide independent advocacy as per the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

9. Consultation

9.1 Engagement as outlined in the report.

10. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment

10.1 An EQIA was undertaken on 25th October 2018. The results were 10 positive impacts, 3 no impacts and 0 negative impacts.

11. Glossary

EQIA	Equality Impact Assessment
HSCSMT	Health and Social Care Senior Management Team
IJB	Integration Joint Board
MWC	Mental Welfare Commission