

Appendix 1 – Mental Welfare Commission’s Recommendations

Recommendation 1: All health and social care partnerships (HSCPs), health boards and local authorities should work collaboratively to ensure that a strategic advocacy plan has been developed and implemented for a three year period based on information gathered from a needs assessment, scoping exercises and consultations for the provision of independent advocacy services in their area by 31 March 2024.

Recommendation 2: Equality impact Assessments (EQIA) must be undertaken when developing and finalising strategic advocacy plans and signed off by senior management from all key partners, e.g. health and social care partnerships, health boards and local authorities.

Recommendation 3: All HSCPs, health boards and local authorities should ensure that advocates and advocacy organisations commissioned to provide advocacy services in their area comply with the principles and standards set out in Appendix 1 of the Scottish Government Guidance: Independent advocacy - a guide for commissioners (2013).

Recommendation 4: All HSCPs, health boards and local authorities should promote advocacy services among health, social care and social work staff through training/awareness sessions and ensure information is available through a wide range of methods to members of the public.

Recommendation 5: All children’s integrated service plans should include reference to the provision of independent advocacy services by 31 March 2024.

Recommendation 6: All HSCPs, health boards and local authorities to consider the term of funding in response to the feedback from the advocacy organisations about how this can make it challenging regarding long term planning and sustainability of independent advocacy organisations.