

East Ayrshire Health and Social  
Care Partnership

# **Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan 2024-2027**

Easy Read

EAST AYRSHIRE

**Health & Social Care**  
Partnership

## What is this plan about?



This plan is about making sure everyone in East Ayrshire can have their voice heard through independent advocacy.

## What is independent advocacy?



Independent advocacy means having someone to help you speak up and make sure your rights are respected.



Independent advocacy helps people who might not be heard, like those with mental illness, dementia, learning differences or disabilities.



**There are different types of independent advocacy.**



**Self Advocacy** is when one person helps another person to speak up.



**Professional Advocacy** is when paid or unpaid advocates help with specific issues.



**Citizen Advocacy** is when an someone supports another in their community to have their voice heard



**Peer Advocacy** is when someone with similar experiences helps another person.



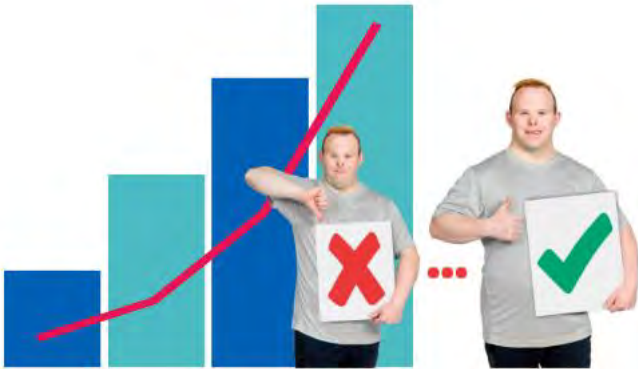
**Collective Advocacy** is when groups of people come together to support each other and speak up about shared issues.

## Why do we need this plan?

To make sure everyone knows about independent advocacy and can use it if they need to.



To improve the quality of advocacy services in East Ayrshire.



## Who helped make this plan?

The plan was made by talking to people who use advocacy services, their families, and other important groups in the community.





## What services are available in East Ayrshire?



**East Ayrshire Advocacy Services** helps people with learning disabilities, mental health issues, brain injuries, addictions, and those receiving care under the Mental Health Act.



**Who Cares? Scotland:** Helps children and young people who are in care or going through the child protection process.



## How is the plan funded?

The plan is funded by East Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.



## What do people say about advocacy?

People say advocacy helps them understand their options and speak up about their needs.



## What are the goals of the plan?

**Improve Access:** Make sure more people know about and can use advocacy services.



**Raise Awareness:** Help people understand what advocacy is and how it can help them.



**Support Independence:** Ensure advocacy services remain independent and focused on the needs of the people they support.



**How will we know if the plan is working?**

We will regularly check how well the advocacy services are doing and make improvements based on feedback from the community.