# Circles Advocacy South Ayrshire



Circles Network has provided person centred, individual and collective advocacy across the UK since the organisation was founded 1994. We deliver advocacy in a variety of different ways throughout the UK and have dedicated advocacy services in several locations across Scotland.

We specialise in providing independent, professional, issue based advocacy for thousands of people, mostly those who are affected by disability, chronic long term illness, mental ill health, learning, physical and sensory difficulties, brain injury, autism and personality disorder. In addition, we provide collective advocacy in some communities and on the wards of clinics and hospitals. Circles of Support, a form of collective advocacy, which we are well known for, are also developed throughout the whole organisation.

# Circles Advocacy Approach

Our approach is well established, truly independent and professional. We always promote independence, empowerment and inclusion, supporting people to gain the skills, confidence and belief to speak up for themselves wherever possible. We work by creating the thinking space needed to explore possibilities, be clear about choices and advocate for change to happen where required.

Independent advocacy is about speaking up for and standing alongside individuals and not being influenced by the views of others. Independent advocacy is important when individuals are not heard, are vulnerable or are discriminated against.

# Statutory Advocacy

People who are involved in situations related to the Mental Health Act, Adults with Incapacity Act, Adult Support & Protection Act.

#### Other areas where we can help:

- Discharge meetings.
- (CPA) Care Programme Approach meetings.
- Social work reviews.
- DWP health assessments.
- Children's Hearings, child protection meetings.
- Non-instructed advocacy.
- Solicitor meetings.
- GP appointments, care home reviews and more.

# We provide advocacy for The Priory Group in Ayrshire

Ayr Clinic is a low secure hospital with 3 wards - a 12 bedded male ward, 12 bedded female ward and a 12 bedded mixed rehabilitation unit.

The Priory also have an 8 bedded step-down/rehabilitation unit in South Ayrshire and a similar 10 bedded unit in East Ayrshire.



# Recovery Advocacy

The role of this Project is to provide an Independent Rights Based Advocacy Service to individuals and their families residing in South Ayrshire who have been affected by problematic alcohol and drug use.

#### A recovery advocate can help you to:

- Understand your rights using a human rights based approach.
- Share your views, feel included and support you to attend any appointments or meetings.
- Get the information you need to make informed choices regarding your care and treatment, using MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) standards.
- Access local support services.

# We regularly attend

VASA 3rd Sector forums, Care & Share, are members of the Adult Protection Committee and the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership South Ayrshire Delivery group and the South Ayrshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership Recovery Oriented System of Care group, regular drop-ins to patients at Woodland View, collective advocacy within a local care home, members of the National Recovery Advocacy Network.

### **Testimonials**

- "First class service..."
- "...would definitely, definitely use the service again."
- "Positive experience at all times"
- "...an invaluable resource to our service."
- "Input from advocacy has given me hope that my situation can improve."
- "Very much helpful. Really good. Helped to communicate with social work."
- "[Advocate] was very helpful I was very impressed by her professional conduct"

  "It's great news, thanks in no small part to your help, it has been a positive outcome! We can't thank you and Circles enough for your support with this. It has without a doubt made a massive difference to the outcome...and in addition to that helped make a very stressful situation feel much less overwhelming..."

### Some stats

people provided with advocacy in the last year.

13% increase since last year

47% increase from the year before

For more information contact:

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