



Independent Advocacy  
North East

# INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY NORTH EAST

Room B14 Linskill Centre, Linskill Terrace,  
North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE30 2AY  
Telephone: 0191 259 6662  
email: [info@iane.org.uk](mailto:info@iane.org.uk) [www.iane.org.uk](http://www.iane.org.uk)



## Volunteering Opportunities

Thank you for your enquiry about volunteering opportunities at Independent Advocacy. I have enclosed some information about advocacy as well as a registration form.

If you would like to join our organisation as a volunteer, please complete the registration form and return it to me as soon as possible. Once the form has been received, I will contact you to arrange an informal chat, where we can discuss your volunteer role in more detail.

If you require any further information or have any questions to ask, please contact me on the above number.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Dryland  
Operations Manager

Financially supported by



## Volunteer Information

**Independent Advocacy North East** is an independent charity whose only business is the provision of advocacy services for people from the North East. The organisation was founded in 1994 and became a registered charity in 1995. The charity is based in North Shields and provides advocacy services for vulnerable adults many of whom have learning disabilities, mental health problems or physical disabilities.

Independent Advocacy is managed by an Executive Committee that can include service users, volunteer advocates and people with an interest in advocacy. Funding for our activities is provided by a combination of Charitable Trusts, Local Authority and NHS Care Trusts.

### **What is advocacy?**

Advocacy happens when someone actively supports and represents the views and wishes of another person who is unable to do this for themselves.

Advocacy is a way of protecting and asserting our rights. Some of the basic rights are denied to people who are ill or have a disability. Advocacy is founded on the belief that people are of equal value regardless of ability, wealth, or status.

### **Why is advocacy important?**

Our society is often not very good at listening and responding to people disadvantaged by age, illness, or disability. We have all experienced times when we have either needed some help to speak up for ourselves or have perhaps helped another person through a problem. Advocacy is now happening in a more organised way to make sure that people who may face unfair treatment can get independent support.

### **Independent Advocacy and Volunteers**

Independent Advocacy values the contribution that volunteers make to providing advocacy to vulnerable people. They provide different but equally valuable contributions, which complement the work of the paid staff. Volunteers bring a diversity of skills and experience to our work. They offer links with communities and extend advocacy to a wider range of people.

Within our organisation the role of the volunteer is to advocate on behalf of individual service users.

### **Citizen Advocacy**

The volunteer works on a one-to-one basis with a vulnerable person. The person may have a learning disability, mental health problem, head injury, physical disability or be an older person living in the community.

Citizen advocacy is about building a partnership with the aim of getting to know each other, and building trust, so that the volunteer can become an effective

advocate for their advocacy partner. The advocate is loyal to their partner and represents their interests as if they were their own.

## **What do volunteer advocates do?**

**Each of the roles involve some or all of the following: -**

- Meeting with the person and offering advocacy support
- Helping to identify the advocacy issues
- Agreeing with the person what action is to be taken by the advocate
- Obtaining information for the person about their rights and options to enable them to make an informed choice
- One off practical tasks such as letter writing and making telephone calls
- Supporting the person at reviews, meetings, and appointments
- Protecting the person's interests and 'speaking up' on their behalf
- Keeping necessary records
- Provide regular reports
- Attending training and supervision/support meetings with advocacy workers

## ***How to become a volunteer with IANE***

1. Complete the volunteer registration form and return it to:

### **Independent Advocacy**

#### **Room B14 Linskill Centre**

Linskill Terrace  
North Shields  
Tyne and Wear  
NE30 2AY

**If you need help with the form, or want to ask anything,**

**give us a ring on 0191 259 6662 or email [info@iane.org.uk](mailto:info@iane.org.uk)**

2. Our volunteer co-ordinator will contact you to have an informal chat about volunteering and the opportunities on offer.
3. Attend our volunteer advocate training course. It is designed to prepare volunteers for their advocacy role.



Independent Advocacy North East  
Room B14 Linskill Centre  
Linskill Terrace, North Shields Tyne and Wear  
NE30 2AY



Tel: 0191 259 6662

Email: info@iane.org.uk

**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM**

Full Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

Date of Birth.....

**Telephone Contact Details**

Home.....Work.....

Mobile..... Email.....

Please give only those numbers where you are happy for us to contact you.

**Emergency Contact Details**

Name.....Relationship to you.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone.....

**How did you find out about our volunteering opportunity?**

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**Further Information**

When we have received this form we will arrange an informal meeting to talk about advocacy, volunteering and to answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to give us any further information about yourself, your life and work experiences, or why you would like to become a volunteer/advocate, please use the space below.

**Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS Check)**

**(Previous known as Criminal Records Bureau Check)**

Independent Advocacy North East works with vulnerable adults. We wish to make sure, as far as possible, that their interests are protected and their safety is maintained. Therefore all volunteers will be asked to complete a **Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS Check)** and to provide two referees. We stress that minor convictions may not necessarily stop you from being a volunteer, but we may need to ask for more information from appropriate people as necessary.

**References**

Please give the names and addresses of two people who have known you for two years in different roles. Ideally we would like at least one reference from a professional e.g. employer, course tutor, someone you have worked with. The other reference could be from a longstanding friend, religious minister, fellow volunteer etc. Please don't give family members or partners as referees. We will request references as soon as we receive your form so please make sure you've asked your referee's permission first.

Name.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....

Post Code.....

Tel.....

Occupation.....

Relationship to you.....  
.....

Name.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....

Post Code.....

Tel.....

Occupation.....

Relationship to you.....  
.....**Declaration**

- I declare that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge.
- I give permission for Independent Advocacy North East to take up references.
- I agree to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS Check).

Signature..... Date .....

Print Name .....

## Equal Opportunities

To be completed by applicant

<b>Gender:</b>	<b>M</b>		<b>F</b>		<b>O</b>		<b>Prefer not to say</b>	
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<b>Age</b>	<b>18-23</b>		<b>24-30</b>		<b>31-45</b>		<b>46-60</b>		<b>Over 60</b>	
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<b>ETHNIC BACKGROUND</b> <i>(Please tick box that applies)</i>			
White British		Black \ Black British (African)	
White Irish		Black \ Black British (Caribbean)	
White (Other Background)		Black \ Black British (Other Background)	
Mixed: White \ Black African		Asian \ Asian British (Bangladeshi)	
Mixed: White \ Black Caribbean		Asian \ Asian British (Indian)	
Mixed: White \ Asian		Asian \ Asian British (Pakistani)	
Mixed: (Other Background)		Asian \ Asian British (Other Background)	
Chinese		Other Ethnic Group	

**(Please circle your answers)**

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability?                      YES/NO**

**Are you in paid work?                      YES/NO                      FULL-TIME/PART-TIME**

**Are you at college?                      YES/NO                      FULL-TIME/PART-TIME**