

## **ADVOCACY WESTERN ISLES**

### **What is advocacy?**

**ADVOCACY is about standing up for and sticking with a person or group, taking their side, helping them to get their point across. Advocacy adds weight to people's views, concerns, rights and aspirations.** That is the definition in "Independent Advocacy: A Guide for Commissioners", issued by the Scottish Executive.

There is a need for advocacy because many people, especially those who experience difficulties arising from disability or ill health, find it difficult to speak up for themselves or to get their views listened to. It is vital that people who use community care services, including the most vulnerable and excluded in society, are able to make their voices heard and are genuinely involved in decisions that affect their lives.

**Advocacy** can play a valuable role in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable people and can help to ensure that services are planned, designed and delivered from the perspective of service users and carers.

**Advocacy** schemes are designed to connect people who need advocacy with the advocacy they need. **Advocacy Western Isles** is an **independent, confidential, free service** which is available throughout the Western Isles.

For further details contact:

**ADVOCACY WESTERN ISLES,  
27 Bayhead,  
Stornoway.  
Tel/fax: 01851 701 755  
e.mail: [advocacy.westernisles@virgin.net](mailto:advocacy.westernisles@virgin.net)**

**ADVOCACY WESTERN ISLES  
Uist & Barra Office, Tagsa Building,  
Balivanich  
Tel/fax: 01870 60 3891  
Email: [advocacyuistandbarra@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:advocacyuistandbarra@hotmail.co.uk)**

