



INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY NORTH EAST



62 Howard Street, North Shields Tyne & Wear NE30 1AF
Telephone: 0191 259 6662 Fax: 0191 2963767
email: info@iane.org.uk www.iane.org.uk



Date as postmark

Volunteering Opportunities

Thank you for your enquiry about volunteering opportunities at Independent Advocacy. I have enclosed some information about advocacy and also 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
Volunteer Coordinator

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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 is made up of 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 him/herself.

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 actually do?

Each of the roles will 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 his/her rights and options to enable him/her to make an informed choice
- 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

62 Howard Street

North Shields

NE30 1AF

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

2. Arrange a date and time to meet up with our Volunteer Co-ordinator 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.



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VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name.....

Address.....

.....

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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.....

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. For example – an employer, course tutor, someone you have worked with, together with a longstanding friend, church minister 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

Gender:	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Age	18-23	<input type="checkbox"/>	24-30	<input type="checkbox"/>	31-45	<input type="checkbox"/>	46-60	<input type="checkbox"/>	Over 60	<input type="checkbox"/>
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ETHNIC BACKGROUND <i>(Please tick box that applies)</i>			
White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black \ Black British (African)	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black \ Black British (Caribbean)	<input type="checkbox"/>
White (Other Background)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black \ Black British (Other Background)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed: White \ Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian \ Asian British (Bangladeshi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed: White \ Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian \ Asian British (Indian)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed: White \ Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian \ Asian British (Pakistani)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed: (Other Background)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian \ Asian British (Other Background)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Ethnic Group	<input type="checkbox"/>

(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