

# You Know What You Want... Let Others Know Too...

## ADVANCE STATEMENTS:

- Safeguard **your** rights under the new Mental Health Act
- Express **your** choices about **your** care and treatment
- Have to be taken into account and responded to by professionals

a city-wide advocacy project

The logo for AdvoCard features the text "AdvoCard" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a blue rounded rectangle. This rectangle is positioned in front of a larger, light green rounded rectangle. The text "a city-wide advocacy project" is written in a black, sans-serif font, following the curve of the top-left corner of the light green rectangle.

for users of mental health services

## **The New Act**

The new Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 states that **you** can write an **Advance Statement**.

You can write:

- Ways **you want** to be treated
- Kinds of treatment **you** think are best for **you**
- Ways **you don't want** to be treated

## **Why?**

If you become unwell or it becomes harder for you to make decisions, your *Advance Statement* has to be looked at before any decisions are made about your treatment.

**AdvoCard** employs Advocacy Workers to provide independent advocacy for Edinburgh's mental health service users who live in the community and face compulsory treatment under the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

## **Who?**

Anyone with:

- mental health difficulties
- dementia
- learning disabilities
- personality disorder

can write an *Advance Statement*.

It has to be looked at by anyone providing care or treatment, such as your GP, Psychiatrist, Mental Health Officer and the Mental Health Tribunal, when they make decisions about you.

## **When?**

When you write your *Advance Statement* you have to be well enough to understand and intend the effects of the decisions you are making and need to have this witnessed by one of a list of professionals.

You can change your *Advance Statement* at any later date by formally withdrawing your first Statement and replacing it with another written and witnessed Statement.

AdvoCard can support you with your Advance Statement.

Please contact **Devrim, Jane** or **Vincent**:

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