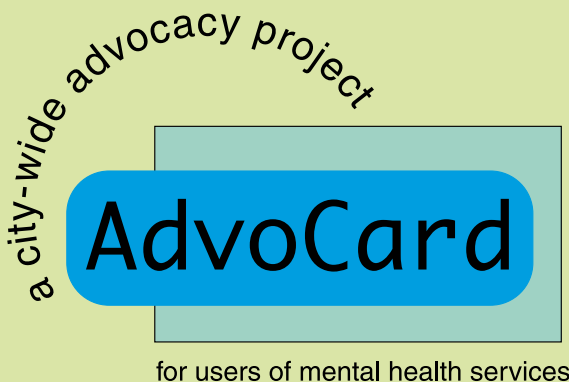


Advocacy in the Act

Advocacy is one of the safeguards which increase the legal rights of mental health service users under the *Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003*.

The Act says that every person with a mental disorder (including mental illness) shall have a right to access independent advocacy.



What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is about standing up for and sticking with a person or group, taking their side, helping them get their point of view across. Advocacy adds weight to people's views, concerns, rights and aspirations.

- Scottish Executive

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

Advocacy in Action

Advocacy Workers can:

- Be there with you, on your side, at meetings to do with your care and treatment
- Assist you to prepare for Tribunal hearings
- Communicate with your Legal Representative so your views are made clear to the Tribunal
- Help you write an Advance Statement
- Help you nominate a Named Person

AdvoCard can support **you** in using the safeguards in the Act.

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

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We are striving to be an equal opportunities employer