

The EARS Advocacy Service?

- ◆ EARS is an **independent advocacy** service. It is not part of any other statutory or private organisations - for example; Social Work Departments, NHS Boards or private companies.
- ◆ EARS service is:
 - ◆ **FREE & CONFIDENTIAL**
- ◆ The service **supports** and **enables** people to speak up for themselves and where they can't, it will provide an advocate to speak for them.
- ◆ EARS advocates are trained and experienced in **independent** advocacy. They are also experienced in working with people who have a **dementia or Alzheimer's**.
- ◆ EARS advocates will be **100% on your side**. They will **take time to listen to you** and your views and won't tell you what to do, or give you advice or offer any opinions on your situation.

How could EARS advocates support/assist you?

- ◆ EARS advocates will assist you when you are finding things difficult, or where you are unable to express your concerns or opinions. For example, about a service you use, or help that you rely or depend upon.

- ◆ EARS advocates will ensure that your voice is heard and can support you when talking to other people, like professionals and carers. Especially where you may not feel confident about speaking up, or you may feel that no-one is listening to you.
- ◆ EARS advocates can help should you want support from someone who is independent of your situation. This could be because you have a concern about your care, accommodation, money, a legal issue or another matter.
- ◆ An EARS advocate can assist you in making informed choices and decisions about your situation and future, by providing you with the information and time you may need to do that.
- ◆ An EARS advocate can provide support where you, or others, may be worried that you are at risk of being harmed in some way.

An EARS advocate can also support and assist you in the following ways:

- ◆ Attend meetings or appointments with you, or on your behalf.
- ◆ Assist you with writing letters, emails or making telephone calls.
- ◆ Taking forward any issues that are important to you, your care or your future.

Under the Scottish Mental Health Act there is a right of access to independent advocacy, which can offer support, if you:

- ◆ Want to make an advanced statement [taking account of your future wishes]
- ◆ Wish to choose a 'Named Person'
- ◆ Are taken into hospital
- ◆ Are asked to attend a Mental Health Tribunal.

EARS can also offer independent support to people:

- ◆ During **Guardianship** applications—under the Adults with Incapacity Act.
- ◆ Where **Power of Attorney** is being discussed or considered.

EARS also provides independent advocacy for recent **Stroke survivors** (of any age) in this region.

You can make a referral to EARS:

- ◆ By telephone, letter, referral form, e-mail or in person.
(Any professional, relative, carer or friend can make a referral. People may also refer themselves).

Contact Details:

Write to: EARS Independent Advocacy Service,
525 Ferry Rd, Edinburgh EH5 2FF

Telephone: 0131 478 8866

Email: info@ears-advocacy.org.uk

Website: www.ears-advocacy.org.uk

THERE IS NO WAITING LIST FOR AN EARS SERVICE



**Independent Advocacy
Service (SCIO)**

Midlothian

**For older people who live in the
community and are using a
Health or Social Care service
or living in residential care.**

Free

Confidential

On Your Side

Tel: 0131 478 8866