

EARS Independent Advocacy Service (SCIO) is an issue-based service which can offer advocacy support, in many areas of life, especially where people may feel they would benefit from some assistance.

You can access this service if you are an adult over 16 years and meet the following criteria:

- ◆ You have a **Physical Disability**
- ◆ You have an **Acquired Brain Injury**

Here's how to make a referral and contact EARS -

- ◆ By telephone, letter/referral form, e-mail or in person.

(Any professional, relative, carer or friend can make a referral. People can 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

EARS Independent Advocacy Service is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)
Charity Number SC031518



Independent Advocacy Service (SCIO)

Midlothian

For adults (16yrs +) with a physical disability and/or an acquired brain injury (ABI)

**Free
Confidential
On Your Side**

Tel: 0131 478 8866

What we do:

- ◆ EARS is an **independent** 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, or it can speak on their behalf.
- ◆ EARS advocates are trained and experienced in **independent** advocacy. They will be **100% on your side**. They **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 you should you need them to?

- ◆ EARS advocates will assist you where you find it difficult, or where you are unable to express your concerns or opinions. E.g. about a service, or help that you rely on.

- ◆ EARS advocates will ensure that your voice is heard. They can support you when talking to others. E.g. professionals, carers, and 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. E.g. you may have a concern about your care, accommodation, money, a legal issue or another matter.
- ◆ You might feel that you need more information or time before making a decision that could/will affect your care or future. An EARS advocate will help you with this.
- ◆ You, or others, may be worried that you are at risk of being harmed in some way.

An EARS advocate can also support you to:

- ◆ Take forward those issues that are important to you.
- ◆ Attend meetings or appointments on your behalf.
- ◆ Assist you with writing letters or making calls.
- ◆ Make informed choices and decisions about your situation/future by providing you with the information you need to do so.