



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 21 FEBRUARY 2024
ANGUS ADVOCACY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
REPORT BY JILLIAN GALLOWAY, CHIEF OFFICER

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework for publication as the first Framework outlining advocacy services available across our communities. The Framework outlines priorities for the 2023-2026 and associated actions in relation to these priorities.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Angus Integration Joint Board:-

- (i) Endorse the priorities and actions outlined within the delivery plan of the Joint Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework for Adult Services.
- (ii) Approves the Joint Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework for Adult Services.

2. BACKGROUND

The Mental Welfare Commission advises that each Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has a plan outlining the available advocacy services, as detailed in several pieces of legislation. The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act in 2003, section 259 imposed a specific duty on local authorities and health boards to collaborate to ensure the availability of independent advocacy services in their area for “every person with a mental disorder”.

The right of access to independent advocacy under section 259 applies to anyone with a mental disorder. The term “mental disorder” is defined in section 328 of the Act and means any mental illness, personality disorder or learning disability, however caused or manifested.

This right applies to any individual:

- regardless of age, disability, ethnic origin, culture, faith, religion, sexuality, social background or personal circumstances;
- whatever their need for advocacy;
- whether or not they are ordinarily resident in Scotland.

Separate to the requirements introduced by the 2003 Act, the local authority also has a duty as an Education Authority to provide advocacy services available for children subject to discussion in tribunal proceedings under the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009.

Furthermore, in accordance with article 12 of The United National Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously. This expectation is translated into the Getting it Right for Every Child and was given legal effect in relation to the Child’s Plan through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 section 26. Independent advocacy is one mechanism through which children and young people (as well as their families) can exercise this right. The Framework summarises a range of services in place to support children, young people and families in Angus to access the advocacy that is right for them.

The Carers Act (Scotland) 2016 requires each local authority to establish and maintain an information and advice service which must provide information and advice in respect of advocacy for carers.

Work initially began in 2018 to develop an Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework (for children and adults) however progress was delayed due to operational pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Progression recommenced in August 2022 and the Angus Advocacy Planning Group was reconvened with refreshed membership from:

- Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP)
- Children, Families and Justice, Angus Council
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, AHSCP
- Angus Independent Advocacy
- Angus Carers Centre
- Parent to Parent
- Who Cares? Scotland
- Procurement, Angus Council

3. CURRENT POSITION

Advocacy services are commissioned by both Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) and Angus Council (AC) for adults and children respectively.

AHSCP commission services for adults who have mental ill health, dementia and related conditions or learning difficulties. Emerging legislation is clear that advocacy services are to be accessible to carers to ensure their voices are heard as well as those they care for. Angus Carers Centre provides advocacy support for young and adult carers.

AC commission services for care-experienced children and young people and parents of children with a mental disorder.

The Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework outlines all commissioned services in one document and details the priorities and actions for the next three years. It is recognised that the need for advocacy support is increasing and there other third sector organisations who provide advocacy support to different groups of people, although these are not commissioned by AC or AHSCP.

The Framework has been written collaboratively with all members of the Angus Advocacy Planning Group as outlined above. Engagement with the public has been completed by sharing the draft Framework along with a feedback questionnaire. This questionnaire was shared via the following methods:

- General public via AHSCP website, Facebook and Twitter with regular posts repeatedly advertising the framework and feedback questionnaire.
- Draft shared for circulation with:
 - Members of the Advocacy Planning Group (including Angus Independent Advocacy (AIA), Angus Carers Centre, Parent to Parent and Who Cares? Scotland)
 - Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Network (AMHAWN)
 - North East Sensory Services (NESS)
 - Deaf Links
 - Gypsy/Travelling communities
 - Community Mental Health Services
 - Learning and Physical Disability Services
 - Day Care Services
 - Homelessness Prevention and Support Service
 - Supported Accommodation Services
 - Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP)
 - Strategic Planning Group (SPG)
 - Clinical Partnership Group (CPG)
 - Locality Improvement Groups (LIGs)

- Children Services Third Sector Forum
- Extended Management Team (Angus Council)
- Leading the Promise Group
- Integrated Children's Services Partnership

Following the initial engagement period, feedback received was minimal with few responses received. Given the low number, it was not possible to gain a representative view of the Framework. Comments received did suggest that the flow of the Framework needed some adjustment along with clarity of what services are independent advocacy providers and what services provide an element of advocacy support along with their other services. Changes were made to the Framework and the decision was taken to carry out a second round of engagement. This was more successful with an increase in responses. Following review of the feedback, the Framework was reviewed and amended.

The amended draft framework was shared internally for further engagement with the following:

- Executive Management Team, Angus Health and Social Care Partnership
- Director of Children's, Families and Justice, Angus Council
- Policy and Resources Committee members, Angus Council
- Children's, Families and Justice Services, Angus Council

Feedback from the engagement has been incorporated in the final draft.

4. PROPOSALS

Angus Integration Joint Board (Angus IJB) to approve the publication of the Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework, in relation to Adult Services, as the first edition for Angus and to approve the priorities and actions within.

(The Framework has been written in collaboration with Angus Health and Social Care Partnership, Angus Council and service providers as outlined in section 2 above. The format was designed following guidance from the Mental Welfare Commission ensuring that all the required elements were considered and included within the Framework.)

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With the completion of the necessary advocacy needs assessment (as instructed by The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003), there is the potential for further unmet need being identified.

Within the Angus IJB Strategic Financial Plan, it is assumed any service pressure will be managed through mitigation of pressures or, where there is no additional funding, the local reprioritisation of existing resources. In this case the local advocacy resources will be reprioritised to meet and absorb any new priority. Angus IJB will increasingly see instances where new, emerging priorities must be managed within existing resources rather than work on an expectation of additional resources being available.

6. RISK

The risks below are reportable and will be monitored through the Angus Clinical Care and Professional Governance Group.

Risk Description	(Should the actions within the Framework not be approved for progression) People within our communities will not receiving the care and support they need to live their lives and manage their health and wellbeing.
Risk Category	Strategic, Operational
Inherent Risk Level	Likelihood 4 x Impact 3 = Risk Scoring 12 (which is a High risk level)

Mitigating Actions	Service providers will continue to provide and promote their services as they currently do. These organisations may wish to increase their engagement activity within community regardless of the framework and delivery plan not being approved.
Residual Risk Level	Likelihood 3 x Impact 3 = Risk Scoring 9 (which is a Medium risk level)
Planned Risk Level	Likelihood 3 x Impact 3 = Risk Scoring 9 (which is a Medium risk level)
Approval Recommendation	It is proposed that implementation of the Framework and delivery plan within, will reduce the planned risk level to: Likelihood 1 x Impact 1 = Risk Scoring 1 (which is a Very Low risk level)

Risk Description	Additional independent advocacy providers and advocacy support services are unable to meet unmet need.
Risk Category	Strategic, Operational
Inherent Risk Level	Likelihood 3 x Impact 3 = Risk Scoring 9 (which is a Medium risk level)
Mitigating Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out needs assessment • Exploration of other organisations to identify if support is available but needs to be more widely known • a) Explore other funding streams; • b) if this is possible, reprioritise the services/support they currently provide within their current funding • Raising awareness in communities of advocacy services currently available
Residual Risk Level	Likelihood 1 x Impact 2 = Risk Scoring 2 (which is a Very Low-level risk)
Planned Risk Level	Likelihood 3 (moderate) x Impact 2 (minor) = Risk Scoring 6 (which is a Low-level risk)
Approval Recommendation	With the mitigating actions as described above, this risk would be deemed as manageable

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

No other implications.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment was required and is included as Appendix 2.

9. DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act

2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	No Direction Required	X
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

REPORT AUTHOR: Eunice McLennan, Head of Community Health and Care Services
Rachel Bennison, Programme Manager

EMAIL DETAILS: tay.angushscp@nhs.scot

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework 2023 – 2026

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 – Statement of Engagement