

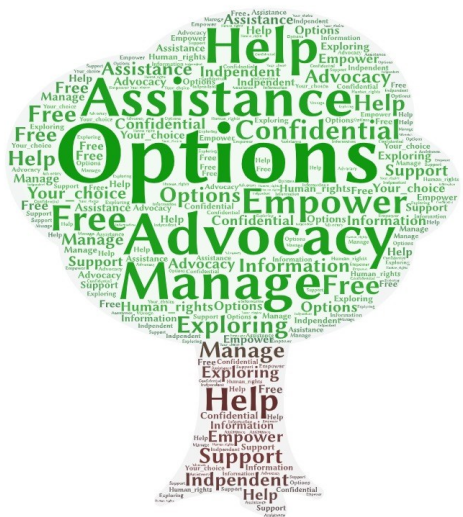
## Why volunteer for Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service?

Are you looking for rewarding volunteer work where you can give something back to the community?

Would you like to receive free training to help people play a fuller part in the decisions which affect their lives?

Would you like to contribute to a lively team, learn new skills and boost your own confidence?

If you are keen to find out more then please get in contact with us!



## Some Frequently Asked Questions.....

### Who are we?

We are the Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service, commonly referred to as LAAS. We are a registered Scottish Charity.

### What do we do?

We specialise in providing direct, independent advocacy support to adults who have mental health problems, adults with a learning disability and people over the age of 65.

### What is Advocacy all about?

Advocacy involves assisting people to take control of matters that affect their lives. Advocacy is about empowering people to speak to power.

### Which areas do we cover?

West Dunbartonshire and neighbouring Argyll & Bute. We have a Main Office in Dumbarton, an Argyll office in Lochgilphead and a team of Area Coordinators.

### Why 'Independent' Advocacy?

To avoid conflicts of interest, we are entirely independent of other services, such as the health service, social work service and benefits agency.

Independent advocates have no split loyalties and can see things from the person's point of view rather than the system's.

Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service



Thinking  
about  
TRAINING  
as a  
Volunteer  
Advocate

Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service

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# Why we value Volunteers

We are fortunate to have help of many volunteers, from a wide range of backgrounds and a variety of skills



and life experiences. They help us to extend the services we provide and to deal more promptly with referrals. We recognise that volunteers can give credibility to our organisation - people giving freely of their time suggest that the work we do is valued in the community. Many of the people who use our services may be isolated and sometimes have no-one involved in their lives who isn't paid to be there.

Volunteers can spend time getting to know people, so that they are in a good position to help them express their views, and if necessary, speak up on their behalf. Volunteers help us raise awareness of advocacy in the communities we serve.

## Volunteering Rewards

By becoming a volunteer you will be giving time which will make a real difference to others. You will be able to spend that time with people when they most need support. They will want to share freely and openly issues which affect their daily lives. Many of our volunteers feel that this is a way of 'giving something back' to their community. It also brings volunteers into contact with lots of new people and in some cases has led to making new friends.

## Our Promise

We work with volunteers as individuals, and aim to enhance your skills



through learning and development opportunities, to enable you to deliver a professional advocacy service to the people for whom you will act. Once trained you will join a local team, with a Coordinator who will work closely with you. When you are fully equipped to take on your own casework, the Coordinator will match you with clients.

We are committed to providing ongoing support and supervision to all our volunteers. We also undertake to look after your Health & Safety whilst you are volunteering for us, and will reimburse out of pocket expenses incurred whilst on active casework.

## Our Expectation of Volunteers

We expect all our Volunteers to complete our Introductory Training Course, after this all volunteers going on to do casework complete our Induction Programme, before taking on their own cases. We ask Volunteers to give us a minimum commitment of hours, and to work within our policies and procedures.



Lomond & Argyll  
Advocacy Service

## Is this for You?

If you have a willingness to share your time with others, are good with people and like working as part of a team, we will be glad to hear from you. Contact details over page.

