

# SNIP Advocacy

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**Ionad Fiosrachaidh Feumalachdan Sonraichte (IFFS)**

**Seirbheis tagraidh do phàrantan agus luchd-cùraim  
chloinne agus dhaoine òga fo bhuidh tinneas agus  
ciorram**

خصوصی ضروریات کے حامل افراد کیلئے معلومات کا مقام (SNIP)

بیماری اور معذوری سے متاثر بچوں اور نوجوانوں کے والدین اور دیگر بھال کرنے والوں کیلئے تائید (Advocacy)

سپیشل نیڈس اینفرمیشن پوائنٹ (اس.ان.آئی.پی.)

رোগ گزشتہ اور اہم تازہ گزشتہ ہلے مے مے اور ہاٹ شیشو دے رابارما اور

تدو باخانکاری دے رنا اڈ بھوکے شی (پسک سمرٹن ررا)

نقطة المعلومات عن الاحتياجات الخاصة (سنيب) (SNIP)

الدفاع عن أولياء أمور الأطفال واليافعين والقائمين على رعايتهم المتأثرين بمرض أو إعاقة.

**Patrons : Kaye Adams and Elaine C. Smith**

**Scottish charity : 000264**

欲索取本文件的中文譯本，請致電愛丁堡市議會傳譯及翻譯服務部(ITS)，電話 0131 242 8181 並說明檔案編號 07764。

اگر آپ کو اپنی زبان میں اس کتابچے کی نقل چاہیے تو براۓ مہربانی انٹرنیشنل اینڈ ٹرانسلیشن سروس (ITS) سے 0131 242 8181 پر رابطہ قائم کریں اور ریفرنس نمبر 07764 کا حوالہ دیں۔

إذا كنتم ترغبون في الحصول على نسخة من هذا المنشور باللغة العربية، يرجى الاتصال هاتفياً بمكتب الترجمة (ITS) بواسطة الرقم 0131 242 8181 وذكر الإشارة 07764.

বাংলা ভাষায় এই ডকুমেন্ট অনুবাদ করার ব্যাপারে তথ্য পাওয়ার জন্য ইন্টারপ্রিটেশান এ্যান্ড ট্রান্সলেশান সার্ভিস-(আই.টি.এস.)-এর সাথে 0131 242 8181 নম্বরে ফোন করে রেফারেন্স নম্বর 07764 উল্লেখ করবেন।

**Ma tha thu airson a' bhileag seo fhaighinn nad chànan fhèin, nach cur thu fios gu ITS air 0131 242 8181, ag ainmeachadh àireamh clàraidh 07764.**

**Jeśli chciałbyś otrzymać tą ulotkę w twoim języku, zadzwoń do Biura Tłumaczeń (ITS) na nr 0131 242 8181, i podaj numer referencyjny 07764.**

You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and different computer formats.  
Please phone SNIP on 0131 536 0360 if you would like this leaflet in one of these formats.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

## **What is SNIP?**

SNIP is a voluntary organisation based at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) in Edinburgh. We support parents of children and young people who have additional support needs. We are managed by a committee of parents of children/young people with additional support needs and professionals. This means that the staff are employed by SNIP and not the RHSC. Most of the staff at SNIP are parents of disabled children.

## **What does SNIP do?**

SNIP can offer:

- Information
- Advice
- Emotional support for parents whose children have, or may have additional support needs
- Independent Professional Advocacy

## **What is advocacy?**

Advocacy is about supporting you to express your point of view as effectively as possible. Usually this will mean providing you with any information, suggestions and practical support you need to contact people or attend meetings yourself. This is called self-advocacy.

Sometimes, however, speaking up for yourself effectively and feeling listened to can be too difficult. You may be too upset, too busy with supporting your child or simply not know how to do it. For example, if a letter is needed you may find it difficult to find the right words or lack confidence in your ability to get your views across in writing. Advocacy can help at these times.

Advocacy can be useful in situations like:

- Meetings with professionals
- Emails or phone calls to professionals
- Support to express your views in your child's school, or on their ward
- Writing to people who may be able to help you and your child
- Writing effective applications for benefits and other sources of help

### **What will the Information and Advocacy Worker do?**

The Information and Advocacy Worker can:

- Spend time with you to get a full understanding of how you feel about your situation and what you would like to do.
- Find out what your options are and get hold of any information that might help you to decide on the right course of action for you.
- Attend any meetings with professionals, such as Social Workers or Doctors with you and they can contact people on your behalf, by phone, letter or email.
- Prepare for any meetings with you -
  - Including checking what you want to say
  - If you would like them to say anything on your behalf
  - Have a list ready in case you forget anything
  - Take notes if you ever struggle to remember what was said once you've left meetings.

When speaking on your behalf, we always express your point of view, not our own. This means that it will be your decision that counts, not the opinion of the Information and Advocacy Worker.

## **What can't the Information and Advocacy Worker do?**

When using advocacy, it's really important that you make the right decision for you, so your Information and Advocacy Worker is not there to:

- Tell you what they think you should do, but can talk you through the various options.
- Do things that are another professional's role e.g.
  - Provide cash assistance
  - Transport
  - Provide childcare
- The Information and Advocacy Worker will not raise your expectations unrealistically. If something's not possible they will be honest with you about that.

## **What about my family's confidentiality?**

Confidentiality is very important to SNIP so we will:

- Keep our discussions within the SNIP office, unless you ask us to talk to someone for you.
- Share any information that a professional passes to us with you, unless there are clear reasons why this is impossible.

There are more details about our confidentiality policy in the agreement your Information and Advocacy Worker will discuss with you.

## **What do I need to do?**

In situations where you're not sure what you want to do we can spend time with you and work through the options that are open to you. With an advocate, you decide how much or how little

support you need. An Information and Advocacy Worker will always try to assist you to feel more confident about doing things by yourself, but only when you feel ready. The Information and Advocacy Worker will need to make an agreement with you.

This agreement will include information about:

- Confidentiality
- Availability of the Information and Advocacy Worker
- Moving on from SNIP's advocacy service

This leaflet is designed to help you understand what advocacy could mean for you. The Information and Advocacy Worker will be happy to discuss any part of it in detail. They can also be contacted if you have any concerns about advocacy at any time.

You can call our helpline on **0131 536 0583**, available Monday-Friday 10am - 4pm, with an answering machine to take messages at other times.

If you are interested in finding out more about advocacy, you can contact SIAA (The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance).

The SIAA is devoted to the promotion, support and defence of Independent Advocacy in Scotland. It is a membership organisation that has the overall aim of ensuring that Independent advocacy is available to any vulnerable person in Scotland. Their telephone number is **0131 260 5380**, and their website is at **[www.siaa.org.uk](http://www.siaa.org.uk)**