**THE ADVOCACY PROJECT**

**BACKGROUND**

The Advocacy Project was established in April 1992 to provide a community based, independent advocacy service for disabled people in the South East of Glasgow. It was set up by disabled people and others working in the field, who recognised a need for individuals to be supported to ensure their voice was heard.

Since its set up 22 years ago it has extended and developed its services to include specific client groups across Glasgow, Lanarkshire and East Renfrewshire. It has over the past 4 years established and developed an engagement and involvement service which further complements the independent advocacy function by ensuring people are involved and have a say in their care and services.

The organisation is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. To maintain its independence it is managed by a Board of Directors comprising of individuals with an interest in, and commitment to the work of the Project. They give their time voluntarily and bring a variety of skills to the organisation, including direct experience of management in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The Board hold a strategic role within the organisation. It has a responsibility to oversee effective governance by ensuring the Project meets it’s legal and corporate obligations.

The Advocacy Project is a rights based organisation, committed to ensuring individuals are as involved as they can be in decisions that affect their lives. It aims to raise awareness of peoples’ rights and ensure they are safeguarded in instances where people are unable to do so themselves.

Delivering individual and collective services through contractual arrangements with local authorities and health boards, the organisation continues to raise awareness of the benefits independent advocacy brings to promote self-directed services and work towards person centred care and support.