



Briefing : The Carers (Scotland) Bill – Advocacy

Advocacy: An amendment to include access to advocacy for carers.

Under the amendment each local authority would be required to secure the availability of advocacy services to carers who have eligible support needs within the Bill and who have the opportunity choose from one of the four SDS options.

This amendment is similar to the provision made in section 238 of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 for those with a mental disorder to access advocacy services.

Some carers would benefit from advocacy support to assist them with information gathering, considering options and making informed choices about what support to access to best meet their personal outcomes.

It would also enable carers to have a voice where there is a potential conflict of interest with the person they care for. For example, where the person they care for is refusing services.

The National Carer Organisations, October 2015

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