

Under the Scottish Mental Health Act there is a right of access to independent advocacy, which can offer support , if you:

- Want to make an advanced statement [taking account of your future wishes].
- Wish to choose a 'Named Person'
- Are taken into hospital
- Are asked to attend a Mental Health Tribunal.

EARS can also offer independent support to people:

- During **Guardianship** applications - under the Adults with incapacity Act.
- Where **Power of Attorney** is being discussed or considered.

A **Referral** can be made by: a Professional, relative, carer or friend. Or you can refer yourself by contacting us.

There is no waiting list for an EARS Service

Contact Details:

Write to:



EARS Advocacy Service
Unit 14 Grampian Court
Beveridge Square
Livingston, West Lothian
EH54 6QF



Tel. 01506 205840
0131 478 8866



Email: info@ears-advocacy.org.uk



Website: www.ears-advocacy.org.uk

EARS Independent Advocacy Service is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

Charity Number SC031518



**West Lothian
Independent Advocacy
Service (SCIO)**

**For older people living in the
community and using a Health and
Social Care service
or living in
residential care**

- ✓ Free
- ✓ Confidential
- ✓ On **Your Side**

**Tel. West Lothian Office 01506 205840
Edinburgh Office 0131 478 8866**

What we do:

- EARS is an **independent advocacy** service. It is not part of any other statutory or private organisations - For example: Social Work Departments, NHS Boards or private companies.
- EARS service is: **Free and Confidential**
- The service **supports** and **enables** people to speak up for themselves and where they can't, it will provide an advocate to speak for them.
- EARS advocates are trained and experienced in independent advocacy. They are also experienced in working with people who have a **dementia** or **Alzheimer's**.
- EARS advocates will be **100% on your side**. They will **take time to listen to you** and your views and won't tell you what to do, or give you advice or offer any opinion on your situation.

How could EARS advocates support/assist you?

- EARS advocates will assist you when you are finding things difficult, or where you are unable to express your concerns or opinions. For example, about a service you use, or help that you rely or depend on.

- EARS advocates will ensure that your voice is heard and can support you when talking to other people, like professionals and carers. Especially where you may not feel confident about speaking up, or you may feel that on-one is listening to you.
- EARS advocates can help should you want support from someone who is independent of your situation. This could be because you have a concern about your care, accommodation, money, a legal issue or another matter.
- An EARS advocate can assist you in making informed choices and decisions about your situation and future, by providing you with information and time you may need to do that.
- An EARS advocate can provide support where you, or others, may be worried that you are at risk of being harmed in some way.

An EARS advocate can also support and assist you in the following ways:

- Attend meetings or appointments with you, or on your behalf.
- Assist you with writing letters, emails or making phone calls.
- Taking forward any issues that are important to you, your care or your future.