

Submission from REACH Advocacy

REACH Advocacy have developed the only Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) advocacy award Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 7, that covers all protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010). We have an agreement with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to use their Quality of Life survey (WHO-QoL 100) this is the first time in the world it is being used something I believe should be supported and promoted by the Scottish Government

We firmly believe that our advocacy award would let individuals/families learn the language of human rights and how to use them, especially the young people of Scotland as this is the year of young people, we believe that Scotland has a great opportunity with our award to be one of the first countries in the world if not the first to offer a human rights based approach with educational accreditation that is quality assured to all of Scotland.

There is a lot of talk about human rights and a rights based approach but unless individuals/families learn their rights and have access to a quality assured award based on the Human Rights Act (1998) & Equality Act (2010) nothing will change.

REACH Advocacy staff & Board have all had lived experience of mental health/addiction/carer roles and developed the advocacy award as we noticed the gap between policy & practice, we have met and have the support of Ian Welsh OBE, CEO of Health & Social care

The ALLIANCE, Dr Donald Macaskill, CEO Care Scotland, Dr Claire Lightower Director of Center Youth Criminal Justice (CYCJ) Dr Iain McPhee Senior Researcher Alcohol & Drugs University West of Scotland (UWS) Dr Eric Carlin Director Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) Dr Lisa Cameon (Lanarkshire MP) Fulton Magregor MSP (Local MSP) Christina McKelvie MSP Convener of Equalities and Human Rights Committee, AnneMarie Ward CEO Faith & Voices of Recovery UK (FAVOURUK).

We have a lot of interest from England in our advocacy award as it can fit into their educational system and have just obtained an e-learning platform for distance learning, we will also be working with Dr Iain McPhee (UWS) on a research project on the efficacy of advocacy as an intervention, at the moment we have at least 80 candidates on a waiting list to undertake the award from all over Scotland & England.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our unique award with the committee and our vision of quality assured advocacy training and the potential of using the award as the vehicle for a Human Rights Based approach throughout Scotland.