

EARS Independent Advocacy Service (SCIO) is a service which **offers support** with issues affecting your life.

You can access this service if you :

- ♦ have **had a stroke** within the last **2 years**
- ♦ live in **Lothian**

Anyone can refer

- ♦ the person who has had a stroke
- ♦ professional,
- ♦ relative,
- ♦ carer/friend



Write to: EARS Advocacy Service
525 Ferry Rd,
Edinburgh
EH5 2FF



Telephone: 0131 478 8866



Email: info@ears-advocacy.org.uk

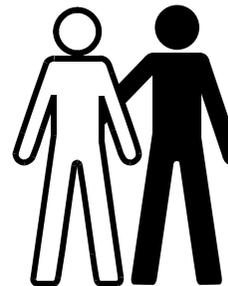


Website: www.ears-advocacy.org.uk



Independent Advocacy Service (SCIO)

Independent Advocacy for recent Stroke Survivors



- ♦ **Free**
- ♦ **Confidential**
- ♦ **On Your Side**



Tel: 0131 478 8866

What is EARS Advocacy Service?

- ◆ EARS is an **independent** service. It is **not** part of any statutory or private organisations - for example: Social Work Departments, NHS Boards or private companies.
- ◆ EARS is:
 - ◆ **Free**
 - ◆ **Confidential**
- ◆ EARS **supports** and **enables** people to speak up for themselves, or it can speak on their behalf.
- ◆ EARS advocates are trained and experienced in **independent** advocacy. They are **100% on your side**. They **take time to listen to you** and your views.
- ◆ They **don't**
 - ◆ tell you what to do
 - ◆ give you advice, or
 - ◆ offer opinions on your situation.
- ◆ EARS advocates ensure that **your voice is heard**. They can support you when talking to others - for example:
 - ◆ doctors and nurses
 - ◆ carers
 - ◆ employers
 - ◆ lawyers
- ◆ EARS advocates offer you support from someone who is **independent of your situation**. For example:
 - ◆ concerns about your **care**
 - ◆ **medical** treatment
 - ◆ **accommodation**
 - ◆ **money**
 - ◆ **legal** matters
- ◆ EARS advocate can:
 - ◆ attend **meetings** with you or on your behalf
 - ◆ help you **write letters** or make **phone calls**
 - ◆ help you make **informed choices** and **decisions**.

How do EARS advocates support you?

- ◆ EARS advocates can help you express your concerns or opinions - for example:
 - ◆ about a **service** you use
 - ◆ about **medical treatment**
 - ◆ about **care** and **support**
- ◆ EARS advocates can help if you need **more information** or **time** before making a decision that may affect your care or future.
- ◆ EARS advocates can help if you, or others, are **worried** that you are at **risk of being harmed**.