

Policy & Campaigning

MHA operates in a complex environment. The challenges of adequately supporting service users are significant. The current financial climate requires that the organisation must be able not only to satisfy the needs of service users but also to demonstrate high quality outcomes measured against quality indicators driven by the requirements of Service Level Agreements and of regulatory bodies such as The Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (Care Commission) and others. We have to be aware of local and national policy issues and we seek to inform and influence policy development.

MHA must have a strong and well informed voice to enable it to campaign for adequate resourcing of current services, as well as advocating for and influencing the development of future innovative services. This positive approach will help to set the tone for our partnership working.

We continue to pursue a dual approach, delivering effective services to meet the needs of local people and using that experience of the impact of mental health problems on people's lives to campaign and influence both locally and nationally. The growing participation of our service users within the organisation is helping to ensure that we are able to reflect a user perspective in relation to our campaigning activities. That combined approach continues to enjoy the full support of the Board.



The national and local agenda in relation to services promoting and supporting mental wellbeing in its widest sense is dynamic and ever changing. Throughout the year MHA has raised its profile at both local and national levels. Our attempts to influence have taken a variety of forms including participation in meetings, conferences and seminars, use of local media, talks to community groups and mailshots.

The inclusion of policy and campaigning in the remit of a newly formed Sub-Group of the Board of Directors now allows this essential aspect of our work to achieve the higher profile it requires.

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