

If you would like to make an enquiry about how we can assist, or to speak to one of the team our operating times are Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

# Circles Carers Advocacy Fife



Circles Network works across the United Kingdom delivering a wide range of person-centred community-based services and supports with disabled and disadvantaged people.

In Scotland we purely deliver advocacy services to maintain our independence in this area of work. The organisation was founded in 1994 and since then has grown and developed, always working in pioneering and creative ways to help people overcome the challenges which they face. To find out more about Circles Network, head to our website or contact one of the team in your area.

 01592 645360

 07909 002 582

 [info.fife@circlesnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info.fife@circlesnetwork.org.uk)

 [circlesnetwork.org.uk](http://circlesnetwork.org.uk)

 Circles Network  
Ore Valley Business Centre  
Lochgelly  
Fife  
KY5 9AF



**Do you need support and guidance to understand and navigate the processes surrounding power of attorney, capacity or guardianship?**



Circles Network have a team of independent advocates ready to help you gain access to information about and put in place a power of attorney. We are also ready to support carers to overcome challenges regarding guardianship orders and appointing legal guardians.



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Funded by Fife Health and Social Care Partnership

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership has commissioned Circles Network to provide an advocacy service to assist carers in understanding the importance of having a power of attorney. This is to ensure that carers have the legal powers they need to make decisions should the person they care for lose capacity, and to support the carer and cared for person to arrange a suitable power of attorney.

The service will also support carers who find themselves in a situation where, due to not having a power of attorney in place, a guardianship order is required.

Our advocates will support carers to navigate the process, so a suitable legal guardian is appointed as quickly as possible.

## This service is for:

- Unpaid carers across Fife
- Carers of an adult who doesn't have power of attorney in place for the person in receipt of their care.
- Carers who have found themselves in a situation where the person they care for has reduced capacity and a guardianship order has been put in place.
- Carers who want to know more about their rights and to have their voice heard.



## How do carers access the service?

- Carers can access the service by contacting our team directly, our contact information is on the back of this leaflet.
- Carers can come along to one of our drop-in sessions or events.
- Meetings can be arranged at our base in Fife or in a location convenient to the carer.
- Carers can join one of our online forums.



## What is the role of the advocate?

An advocate is someone who supports a person or a group of people to have a stronger voice. They are independent, they provide information but not advice. They are highly skilled at listening, truly listening.

They will help carers to know about and understand their rights, locate services and supports that they need and amplify what they want to say. Sometimes this can mean that an advocate will speak on their behalf at meetings.

