

## **SIAA Response**

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# *Consultation on the Draft Regulations relating to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (Set 2 of 2)*

August 2014

We believe that the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 presents an ideal opportunity for the involvement of collective advocacy groups in the design and development of local services. Collective advocacy groups can help and support individuals and groups to make a meaningful contribution to the strategic planning process as well as reviewing services. Local groups and individuals often have insight and intelligence about the way that services are delivered and how they can be improved.

We believe that the Participation Standard developed by Scottish Health Council would be a useful tool to help measure and monitor levels of participation and how meaningful that participation is. We believe that especially when individuals are selected to represent service users or carers on Integration Authorities that there needs to be careful consideration of appropriate support that might help that person fulfil their duties and ensure that their involvement is not tokenistic.

In addition, thought needs to be given to ensure proper representation of a cross section of views of service users and carers especially when considering individual experiences of services.

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The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is Scotland's national membership body for advocacy organisations. The SIAA promotes, supports and defends independent advocacy in Scotland. It aims to ensure that independent advocacy is available to any person who needs it in Scotland.

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