



# DUNFERMLINE ADVOCACY

## Annual Report 2015-16

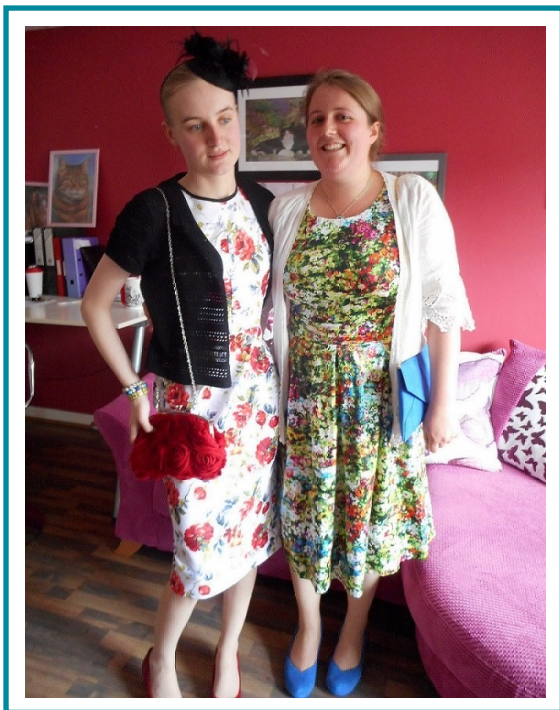


### New Patron for Dunfermline Advocacy

We were delighted when Cllr Jim Leishman MBE, the Provost of Fife, agreed to be our Patron earlier this year. The search for a Patron took place last year after Dunfermline Advocacy was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Jim Leishman said "Dunfermline Advocacy provide fantastic support for vulnerable people. Their strapline "Friendship Changing Lives" sums up perfectly the support they provide for vulnerable people across Dunfermline and West Fife. I am honoured to take on the role of Patron."

### Shannon and Hannah... A Mutually Beneficial Friendship



Hannah and Shannon have been matched for a year and are part of our Younger People's Project. Hannah described their experiences in a blog post on our website- check it out for the full post.

"Throughout our time together I have seen Shannon's confidence and trust in me grow, which is wonderful to see. To start off with she would chat, but only in response to my questions. Now she natters away... telling me about her friends at college and asking every question under the sun! I mentioned that she had speech issues that initially meant I had trouble understanding her. Well sometimes I still have difficulties but Shannon is great and happily repeats herself or mimes until I get it. It's certainly not a barrier to communication! She is also incredibly observant and

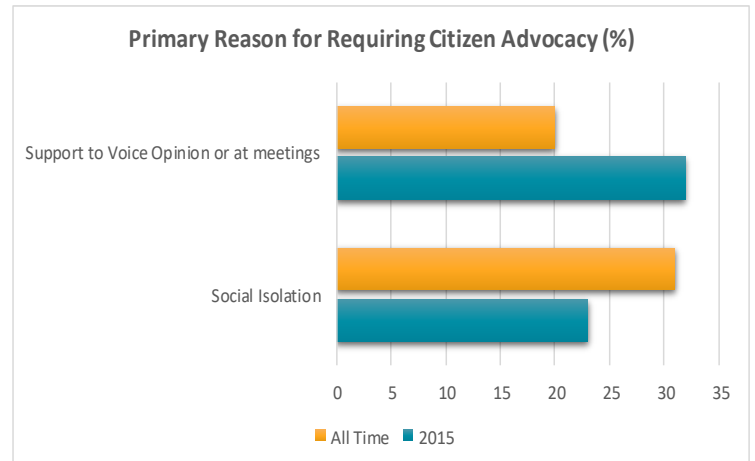
has suggested to me on more than one occasion that I should wash my car...!"

"On a personal level, I have gained so much through spending time with Shannon. My confidence in my own skills has grown and I now know there are many more ways to communicate than just through speech. It always amazes me how she can make me see the world through a different perspective (by asking me things such as 'do cars have feelings' or 'do chickens lick you'). I can also honestly say that Shannon and I are friends. I look forward to our meetings, and I'm pretty sure she does too...! I haven't had to do too many 'advocacy' things yet, but there are challenges on the horizon (such as her life after college). I hope that when they come she'll want to share them with me and we'll be able to deal with them as a team."

## Our Work in 2015

This report provides some of the highlights of our work in 2015 and at the start of 2016. The Impact Stories from just two of our partnerships demonstrate the difference that Citizen Advocacy makes to the lives of people in West Fife.

During 2015 we recruited 35 new Advocates and supported a total of 98 partnerships- 79 long term and 19 short term.



We began to use a new IT system in 2015. Over the next year this will be able to provide the Development Team with useful information to support their work- and ultimately to support more vulnerable people in West Fife. Watch this space for more exciting updates to this in next year's report! Already we can see some interesting information- for example a shift in the main reason for people needing Citizen Advocacy.

### Citizen Advocate Long Service Awards

We were delighted to present a number of our Citizen Advocates with Long Service Awards celebrating volunteering in Fife. We nominated Citizen Advocates with over 5 or 10 years involvement, and presented their certificates on behalf of Fife Voluntary Action.



### Certificate of Achievement for Dunfermline Advocacy



In December 2015 we were awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Dunfermline Advocacy's services to vulnerable citizens in Fife. Some of our Citizen Advocates & Partners and Staff enjoyed an evening of fine food and speeches at Kirkcaldy Town House at the Lord Provost's Reception.





### Rotary Global Swimathon

Some of the Staff were joined by our Chairperson John and Citizen Advocate Geoff, to form the Dunfermline Anchovies on Sunday 21st February. Our team of six swam 182 lengths (4.3km) in 25 minutes and raised a total of £390. This was divided equally between the 2016 End Polio Now Campaign and Dunfermline Advocacy. The 15 teams taking part in the Dunfermline Swimarathon raised between £3000 and £4000 for the 2016 End Polio Now Campaign and together swam a full marathon!

### Zip Wire

Lots of fun was had on the 21st of May when we held a charity Zip Wire across East End Park with the Pars Foundation. Sammy the Tammy was first down the Wire & raised over £100 in donations! Our very own John Swift was the winner of a signed club football for raising the largest amount at over £1000 for the two great causes!



### Bake for Friendship's Sake– DA Charity Bake Off

We held our own version of the Bake Off last September- A panel of three judges Jim Leishman, DediCAKEd's Abi Evans, and our CEO decided on the best cake on the day. The winner was awarded with a place at the Baking Day within The Edinburgh New Town Cookery School in January.



### Technology Update

Thank you to Datel-Solutions for donating £3,436 in kind to Dunfermline Advocacy. This, with a grant of £3,600 from the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, has allowed us to replace our old and dated telephone system with an "all singing and dancing" one that will help us save time, be more efficient and will aid us greatly in our work. We cannot thank both Datel and the Trust enough for their generosity and kindness.



## Short-Term Citizen Advocacy

Our Short-Term Resource continued to be in demand during 2015 and in the year we supported 19 vulnerable adults in a short-term Citizen Advocacy partnership. Eight local people actively volunteered during the year to support people through a range of issues. Sam's story is just one example of the impact that short-term Citizen Advocacy has, and we are pleased that this meant Sam is now part of a long-term Citizen Advocacy Partnership.

### Sam and Heather

Sam has a learning disability and mental health issues. She finds it hard to meet professionals due to anxiety. Our development worker offered advocacy several times, but Sam turned it down. After being placed on a Compulsory Treatment Order, Sam decided to try meeting a short-term citizen advocate as she wanted to appeal but didn't understand the process. Heather helped Sam through the appeal process, taking time to build a relationship and making sure Sam understood all the information given to her. The appeal was unsuccessful, but the Panel were positive that things would soon move forward. Sam had built trust with Heather who then supported her at the next Mental Health Tribunal which had a positive outcome. After this experience Heather further supported Sam to meet a long-term Citizen Advocate. Sam had grown to trust Heather and her positive experience meant she felt able to meet another person and get to know them too for longer term support and friendship.

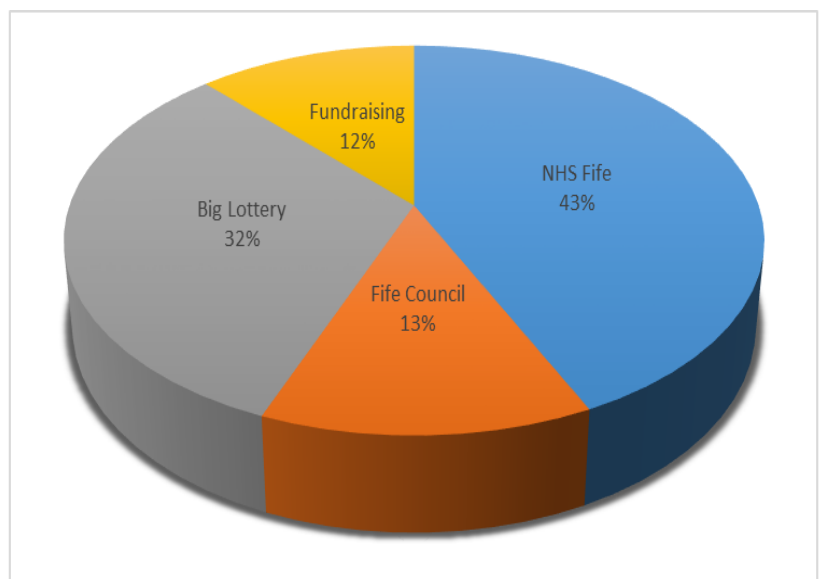
### Admin Team Changes!

At the end of 2015 we said a fond farewell to Sheena Reeve who retired from DA after 17 years of service. We managed to embarrass Sheena at the Festive Blether by thanking her for her dedication and loyalty to DA over the years! In March 2016 we welcomed Tricia Smith as our Office Administrator who has more than 20 years service in admin and the voluntary sector. Tricia's experience of finance, office management and data collation/analysis means she is already a vital part of the DA Team!



### Funding 2015-16

We would like to thank all of our Funders for their continued support during the year. Our total income for 2015-16 was £213,878 (2014-15 £247,878) and the chart below represents the different funding sources during the year.



[DunfermlineAdvocacy.org](http://DunfermlineAdvocacy.org)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC 021638

friendship changing lives