

# Nothing about you

# without you

Volunteer with Sage and  
You can make a difference

Sage needs volunteers to promote and support the rights of vulnerable adults and older people

Please contact  
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Nothing about you / without you

## sage

Support & Advocacy Service

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Dublin 7 D07 DAV9

**General Enquiries**  
01 536 7330  
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 @SageAdvocacy

 Sage Advocacy

[www.SageAdvocacy.ie](http://www.SageAdvocacy.ie)

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### Information & Advice Rapid Response Service

## 1850 71 94 00

8am – 10pm daily

When urgent support is required an experienced Sage Representative can be available nationwide within 24 hours

*Sage is a member of the NSC*

National  
**Safeguarding**  
Committee



[www.safeguardingcommittee.ie](http://www.safeguardingcommittee.ie)



## About Sage

The right to have your voice heard and to participate in making decisions which affect you is a fundamental principle in a democratic society. It is about independence and interdependence. It is a principle simply stated as:

### Nothing about you / without you

Many people face challenges to their independence due to physical or mental illness, intellectual, physical or sensory disability, lack of family and community supports or an inability to access public services that meet their needs. Some people communicate differently and with difficulty. Some people may lose their ability to make and communicate decisions as a condition, such as dementia, develops over time. Some are abused and exploited because of their vulnerability.

In circumstances where people may be vulnerable, or have to depend on others, there is a need to ensure that their rights, freedoms and dignity are promoted and protected. Through support and advocacy the will and preference of a person can be heard and acted on; independently of family, service provider or systems interests.

Influenced by the scandals of Leas Cross and Arás Attracta, Sage was established in September 2014 with funding from the HSE and The Atlantic Philanthropies and with the support and governance of Third Age. Sage Advocacy clg was established in September 2017 to be responsible for the future development and governance of the service.

## Our Work

- Advocating for adequate Home Care Packages and for a comprehensive and equitable system of home care support and oversight of home care providers.
- Challenging unnecessary restrictions on people's liberties and the use of 'convenience medication'.
- Promoting self-advocacy and professional development through workshops on capacity and decision making, enduring power of attorney and advance healthcare directives.
- Supporting people to return home from hospital or care centre.
- Assisting people to maintain control of their income, benefits or property.
- Supporting family members in organising care for people with advancing dementia.
- Advocating with and for people with intellectual disabilities who are trying to develop a life with meaningful activities after they leave a congregated setting.
- Observing or facilitating meetings of residents, family members or staff in nursing homes.
- Promoting awareness of Sage's services in communities, General Practices, day-centres, nursing homes, hospitals, hospices and hostels.

## Our Approach

To collaborate where possible.  
To challenge where necessary.

## Our Team

Sage has a core team of paid staff who are supported by trained volunteers. Our key task is to develop regional teams of people capable of tackling everything from the most simple support tasks to the most complex advocacy challenges in every care setting.

### Key Volunteer Roles:

#### Support Person

People who promote awareness of Sage and its services at local level, who provide general support to Sage clients to enable them make their voice heard and who refer on to an advocate where necessary.

#### Advocate

People who are free from any conflict of interest who act as the voice for a person who may be vulnerable regarding a single issue or a range of related issues. By providing information to the person, ensuring that they understand the decisions they must make and helping them to express their will and preferences, the independent advocate works to keep the person at the centre of the decision-making process.

#### Specialist

People with legal, financial, housing, mediation and other areas of specialist expertise who provide support to staff and volunteers regarding complex issues.