opaaluk Real Choice, Voice and Control for Older People.

Introducing Opaal

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Chair Opaal

What is OPAAL?

- A National membership organisation supporting independent advocacy with older people.
- 180 members (Advocacy schemes, NGO's, Public Bodies, academics).
- UK Four nations remit.
- National Forum independent advocacy with older people.
- Five project strands: research into commissioning; benchmarking; national forum; inc provision in south west and user engagement network.
- We also accept Commissioned work
- Sit on advisory groups
- Sit on national project steering groups. .

Our Vision + Mission

Our vision:

A United Kingdom where all older people have access to independent advocacy provision.

Our mission:

To give the strategic lead on the development of independent advocacy with older people.

Our Ambitions

To achieve these, we are developing our national projects, extending our influence and reach, boosting income generation and developing our organisation.

We are ambitious and want to make a big difference:

- We want to better serve older people, their advocates and carers.
- We want to influence the provision of independent advocacy for all older people, particularly those who are most vulnerable.
- We can do this by being the premier national umbrella organisation focusing on the provision of independent advocacy for older people.

Our Strategic Aims

OPAAL aims to:

1. Promote independent advocacy with older people
2. Contribute to the development of standards
3. Improve access to advocacy for older people
4. Develop better practice in the field
5. Build the involvement of older people in the organisation
6. Develop links with minority ethnic communities

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Our Strategic Priorities

1. Asserting the rights of older individuals to independent advocacy
2. Challenging commissioners to establish sustainable funding regimes to provide independent advocacy for older people
3. Developing the evidence base for independent advocacy, in a way that blends users experience with it's impact on professional practice, and on financial considerations.
4. Innovate in the provision and development of independent advocacy services.

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Real Choice, Voice and Control for Older People

Conference aims to:

- highlight the role advocacy plays in improving older people's lives.
- bring together commissioners, providers and practitioners.
- share national and local devlopments.
- showcase national advocacy projects.

OPAAL (UK)

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