

sage advocacy

From Shandon to Brandon - Michael Cahillane

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From Shandon to Brandon providing a Support and Advocacy Service to the people of the South west is an amazing opportunity. People of the Rebel County and The Kingdom each with their own idiosyncrasies mainly the language and communication "I will yeah..." in Cork means I won't! While in Kerry when you hear "Yerrah..." it means I'm fine so let me alone for a while to have a think. Clients and their wishes are Sage's main priority.

Delivering Support and Advocacy to Vulnerable People in their own communities is a fundamental part of our service. More and more people want to stay at home; staying connected with their family, friends, and communities, it is vital that we provide a reliable support to our clients while adhering to their needs. Sage is able to accomplish this thanks to a number of trained volunteers who give their time and expertise to assist us in the work we carry out.

Cork and Kerry currently have 93 nursing homes, 20 community hospitals, 5 acute hospitals, several primary care centres and many day care centres. Sage's Independent Advocacy Service is available to all. We provide an advocacy service to all adults across the South West wherever they reside. We are happy to report that 174 cases have been brought to a successful conclusion by the Sage team in the South West since the beginning for the year. We are continuously building relationships with other organisations; thus enabling us to access services across the region including local government departments, other charitable bodies and HSE officials alike.

We all experience challenging times, whether clients are within earshot of Shandon Bells or the roar of the Atlantic in Brandon, we provide information and support to address their specific needs.

The Assisted Decision Capacity Act (2015) has formed a major part of our work recently, we have been holding seminars, information days and local discussion in preparation for the new legislation.

The new act allows individuals to plan for their future when and if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves. The Irish Hospice Foundation's 'Think Ahead' document helps you outline your wishes so that they can be considered in time of crises.

'Patient Focus' services recently moved to Sage Advocacy, and we are now providing a service for those who have experienced difficulties during their hospital journey. Patricia O'Dwyer has been appointed Patient Advocacy Services Coordinator and we are fortunate to have her based here in the South West giving assistance to the team in what is a very large area.

City and County can experience different issues, for example we are currently working to assist de-congregation in the Shandon area. Sage affords all our clients to opportunity to self-determine.

Shandon is a vibrant part of Cork city, linking the north with south, the new with the old; this area has been the focus of urban renewal in recent years by Cork City Council. There has been an increase in population with many immigrant families setting up home making it an increasingly diverse area. Brandon on the other hand is a rural area in West Kerry which has experienced a fall in population due to immigration and the withdrawal of services e.g. the post office and Garda station, therefore increasing people's vulnerability; both communities are very different but there is a strong sense of community spirit in both places.

Our Work can be challenging and finding solutions can present difficulties, we challenge when necessary and collaborate when required.

“Let others speak as they will, and our right to speak likewise will be assured, because it’s only by looking after the rights of others that we secure our own”.

