



Request for Tender

Evaluation of Sage Advocacy's Public Value, Impact, and Social Return on Public Investment

Introduction

Sage Advocacy is the national advocacy service for older people and for survivors of institutional abuse. It has established a strong reputation for independence of thought and action and is the 'go to' organisation for people seeking support with issues related to decision-making capacity. Sage Advocacy seeks a robust, independent evaluation to ensure that its services continue to deliver meaningful outcomes for individuals and offer demonstrable value for public investment.

Sage Advocacy invites tenders for the provision of an independent study which will assess the effectiveness and value for money of its services, as well as evaluate the social return on public funds invested in the development of the organisation and its services. This Request for Tender (RFT) will be of interest to experienced researchers, consultancy practices or a consortium of skills groups which, combined, will be able to demonstrate understanding of the contribution that the emergent practice of independent advocacy can make, and is making, in the areas of health, social care, safeguarding, housing, finance and human rights in respect of older people, survivors of institutional abuse and others served by Sage Advocacy.

Objectives of the Study

- To describe and critically assess the *modus operandi* of Sage Advocacy *vis-à-vis* its mission statement and objectives.
- To examine the effectiveness of Sage Advocacy in safeguarding the rights and interests of adults who may be vulnerable due to age, illness, disability or previous life experiences with institutions.
- To assess the extent to which Sage Advocacy meets its aims and objectives in delivering an independent advocacy service.
- To conduct a rigorous value for money analysis of Sage Advocacy's services, including cost-effectiveness and efficiency in the use of resources.
- To measure the social return on investment (SROI) of public funds allocated to Sage Advocacy, identifying tangible and intangible outcomes for service users, the health and social care system, and society at large.

- To assess the extent to which various factors -- staffing, public understanding of independent advocacy and absence of legislation in Ireland for the practice of independent advocacy – operate as constraints in delivering the service.
- To provide evidence-based recommendations to inform policy, funding and the future development of independent advocacy services.

Scope of Work

The successful tenderer(s) will be required to:

- Undertake a comprehensive review of Sage Advocacy's service model, activities, and outcomes.
- Develop a set of multi-faceted indicators which will enable measurement of activity across all aspects of the service: information and support, advocacy casework and systemic advocacy / systems and policy change.
- Collect and analyse quantitative and qualitative data, including engagement with service users, staff, and key stakeholders.
- Apply recognised frameworks and methodologies for evaluating effectiveness, value for money, and social return on investment, including but not limited to cost-benefit analysis and SROI frameworks.
- Present case studies which illustrate, the distinct role and impact of independent advocacy (and the value of costly interventions avoided through the involvement of independent advocacy), particularly in complex care transitions and the implementation of Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) legislation.
- Assess the potential for future demand and the implications for funding and strategic investment arising from (a) an ageing population (b) levels of diminished capacity for decision-making within the population (c) survivors of institutional abuse (d) planned legislation regarding adult safeguarding and protection of liberty in places of care (e) enquiries into abuse in educational institutions and schools
- Deliver a final report with clear findings, recommendations, and an executive summary suitable for dissemination to Sage Advocacy's funders, Oireachtas Committees, stakeholder organisations and groups, the media and, through it, the wider community.

Submission Requirements

Interested parties, or consortia, are invited to submit tenders outlining:

- Relevant experience and expertise in relation to health, social care, advocacy and human services evaluation including value for money, social impact assessments and social return on investment studies.
- A proposed methodology and work plan, including timelines, milestones, and deliverables.
- Details of the project team and roles, including CVs of key personnel and proposed project lead.
- A breakdown of costs and value for money.
- Examples of previous work of a similar nature.
- References to work with previous clients.

Evaluation Criteria

Tenders will be assessed based on:

- Demonstrated understanding of the brief and key evaluation areas.
- Appropriateness and rigour of proposed methodology.
- Relevant experience and track record of the tenderer and team.
- Quality and clarity of submission.
- Cost and value for money.
- Capacity to deliver within the specified timeframe.

Deadline, Funding and Key Contact

The funding for this project will not exceed €45,000. All tenders must be submitted by the Sunday **30th November 2025, 5:00 pm** and the work must be completed by **31st March 2026**. For application submission, queries or further information, please contact Sage Advocacy's lead on this work:

mervynr.taylor@sageadvocacy.ie +353 86 8227998.