Template letter for MSPs or local Councillors

MSPs and Councillors have to give priority to their constituents so please check out who is the relevant Councillor for the area you live in and include your address somewhere in the email as evidence of that. You can find out who your local councillor or MSP is here: <https://www.writetothem.com/> Please be respectful and polite in your message.

Dear (name of MSP/Councillor),

I am writing to you as someone who will be adversely affected by the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership’s proposed disinvestment in Collective Advocacy in Edinburgh.

The ability to access Independent Collective Advocacy for people with mental health issues is my legal right under the Mental Health Care and Treatment (Scotland) Act 2003 and it is the duty of the local authority and health board to fund this.

CAPS Independent Advocacy has been informed that the intention is to withdraw funding and cancel CAPS’ contracts to provide Collective Advocacy. A final decision will be made by the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board at their meeting on 26th August 2025.

The projects at risk are:

* Oor Mad History
* Arts as Advocacy
* Seen But Not Heard, Eating Disorders project
* Experiences of Psychosis
* Much More Than a Label, Personality Disorder project
* Experiences of Trauma
* LGBTQIA+ advocacy
* Minority Ethnic advocacy
* Lothian Voices
* Edinburgh Collective Advocacy
* Peer Forum

CAPS has been operating for 34 years and their Collective Advocacy provision is the most comprehensive in Scotland. As a grass-roots organisation CAPS grew out of the earliest days of the mental health ‘user’ movement back in the eighties. To this day CAPS’ Collective Advocacy defends marginalised people’s human rights in the system. [www.capsadvocacy.org](http://www.capsadvocacy.org)

I am involved in (insert project name(s), or say x number of these projects)

If these projects were to end then I would … (Include what it would be like for you if you couldn’t attend CAPS groups any longer. How would this affect your mental health? What other services might you be able to use instead?) (if none, say there is none).

You can understand more about how other people would be affected by reading the testimonials here: <https://capsadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Testimonials-collated.pdf>

**I am asking for your help to influence the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board’s decision on 26th August. Please help retain this essential service which keeps me well, makes me feel valued and ensures my voice can be heard.**

**Yours sincerely**