

Storyteller Volunteer

Our Storyteller Volunteers speak to journalists about their experiences of being a family member or friend who is impacted by someone else's alcohol or drug use. Experiences may include: alcohol, drugs, mental health, stigma, recovery, and bereavement.

Location:	Depending on nature of media enquiry (e.g. home-based, tv or radio studio, etc.)
Reports to:	Communications Officer
Time Commitment:	Flexible – depending on when we are contacted by the media and when you are available

More about being a Storyteller

Speaking to the media is an opportunity to raise awareness of the issues family and friends face when someone they care about is using alcohol or drugs. It gives the opportunity to raise these issues to the public and to show what living with someone who uses alcohol and drugs is 'really like'. It lets families tell their own real life stories rather than being 'represented' by others. There are many families in Scotland who do not know who to turn to for support and are often isolated and living in fear. Sharing your story can help families and friends to get the support they need and to show they are not alone.

Our application process will give you the chance to consider all the possibilities of speaking about your experiences and to get a better insight into what speaking to the media is like. Sharing your story has many positives. Our experience of working with the media is that generally the reaction is very encouraging. We will also help you prepare for, and deal with, any less positive reactions, e.g. from members of the public.

How does it work?

We get many calls from the media looking to speak with a family member about a story they are covering. If we think the story is suitable, we will contact you and will explain the story and ask if you are interested in speaking. If we are releasing a new campaign, project or press release, we may contact you for a comment.

You may wish to get involved in:

- Providing your story for Scottish Families to use – in writing, as an audio recording or video recording
- In an interview with a newspaper reporter
- On a live or pre-recorded radio interview
- On a live or pre-recorded TV interview

When will I be contacted?

Media calls are very sporadic so there is a chance you may only get called a few times a year. There is also the chance that after you tell your story to the media they will have all the information they need, so you may not be contacted again.

Is this the role for you? A checklist of points to consider

- I have personal experience of being a family member or friend impacted by someone else's alcohol or drug use
- I am comfortable talking about my experiences to others
- I can be contacted by phone or email
- I am willing to travel to and from interviews if it is required (we can arrange to cover any costs if required)

Next steps

If you are interested in becoming a Scottish Families Storyteller Volunteer, please download an application form from our website and send to info@sfad.org.uk. You are also welcome to contact us for a chat if you have any queries (contact Rebecca Bradley, Communications Officer, 0141 465 7523, email rebecca@sfad.org.uk). We will then invite you into our office or phone you to talk about your story. We will work together to write your story down and to finalise a copy. You will receive tips on getting your message across and what to expect when being interviewed by a journalist. We will also talk about what you want to talk about and what you don't. You can change your mind about being a Storyteller Volunteer at any time.