REHAB GROUP | ADVOCACY

From lived experience to lasting change

A look at campaigns that amplify voices, challenge barriers and call for a more inclusive Ireland.



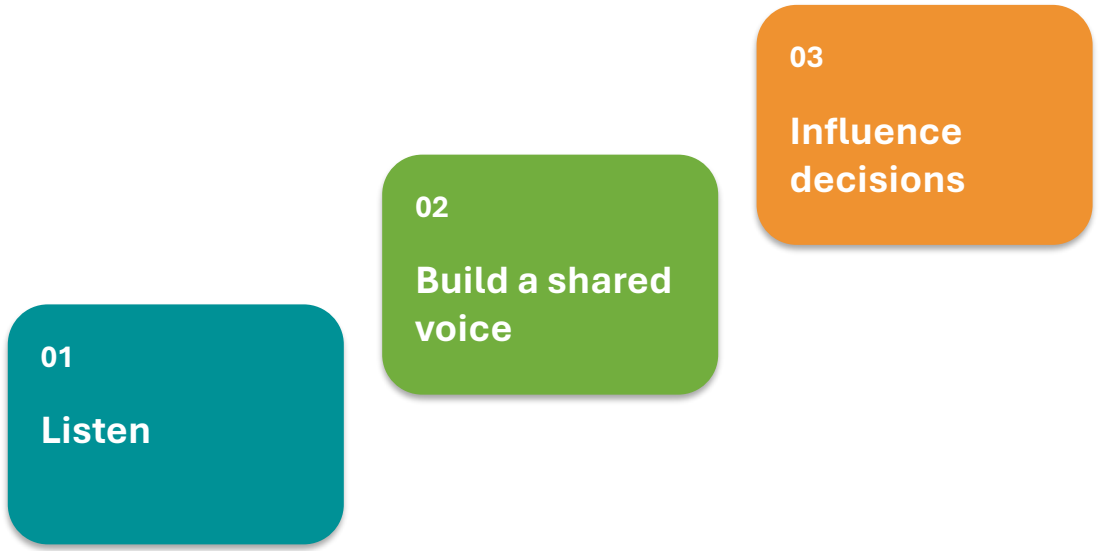
Campaign examples include accessible transport, pre-budget advocacy and student engagement in Europe.

Advocacy starts with people

Advocacy aims to challenge exclusion and promote inclusion.

It supports people to speak up about what matters to them — and helps turn those experiences into action with decision-makers.

From a one-to-one conversation to a national campaign.



Student voices in Brussels



Taking lived experience to the European conversation

- Students brought first-hand experience of the barriers that affect education, independence and participation.
- Met and engaged with decision-makers helping to make disability rights real, not just words on paper.
- The message: people with disabilities must be involved in decisions that affect their lives.



Annual Pre-Budget Submission

Lived experience → policy priorities

Each year, people using Rehab Group services help identify the issues that should be addressed in the national Budget.



Cost of disability

Income supports and the extra costs of everyday life.

Housing & support

Options to live independently and participate in the community.

Health costs

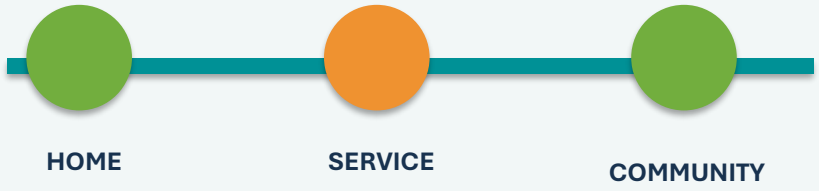
Hidden costs such as dental care, blood tests and medical certificates.

Transport & access

Reliable transport to services, education, work and community life.

The submission turns what people say they need into clear asks for Government.

Accessible transport: access to life



A journey is more than getting from A to B. It can mean friendship, learning, work and choice.

What the campaign highlights

- Too few wheelchair-accessible taxis and limited rural transport options.
- Gaps in services can leave people reliant on family or paid support.
- Poor transport can mean missed classes, appointments, activities and opportunities.
- People with disabilities need reliable, affordable and accessible choices.

The ask: transport that supports independence.

Hidden healthcare costs

A medical need should not become a financial barrier.

Advocacy raises the extra and often overlooked costs that people can face when trying to look after their health.



Campaign focus: ensure people can access the healthcare they need without avoidable out-of-pocket costs.

A wider campaigning agenda

Employment

Fair access to jobs, reasonable accommodation and support to get and keep work.

Education & training

Removing barriers to learning, training and progression for students with disabilities.

Independent living

Housing, personal assistance and community supports that enable choice.

Accessible information

Easy Read and inclusive communication so people can understand and take part.

Rights & representation

Bringing lived experience into consultations, submissions and public debate.

Service sustainability

Making the case for funding that protects quality, continuity and choice.

How advocacy creates momentum



Campaigning is not only about raising an issue. It is about keeping people's experiences visible until change happens.

The message is clear

People with disabilities are experts in their own lives.

Their experiences should shape services, public policy and the decisions that affect them.





Every conversation can be the start of a campaign. Every voice can help move change forward.

Explore Rehab Group advocacy

Campaigns and submissions referenced in this presentation

Advocacy at Rehab Group	https://rehab.ie/what-we-do/advocacy/
Submissions & Campaigns	https://rehab.ie/what-we-do/publications/submissions/
Pre-Budget Submissions	https://rehab.ie/what-we-do/publications/pre-budget-submissions/
Accessible and Inclusive Transport report	https://rehab.ie/what-we-do/publications/submissions/

Note: The Brussels student trip is included as a campaign example supplied for this presentation. Add specific dates, outcomes or photographs if available.