

Who we are

- Since 1998, we have provided person-led advocacy across the North of England
- Our services are high quality, confidential and free
- We are a charity that is independent of professional services including Social Services, the NHS and the police
- We help young people live the lives they want to live.



advocacy focus



Independent



Free



Confidential

“ I can talk to my Advocate, he listens to me and cares. He does not judge me or try to control my life. He helped me to see I have choices in life, when I thought I had none. ”

- Chantelle

HOW TO REFER FOR ADVOCACY

✓ Download the relevant referral form from our website:
www.advocacyfocus.org.uk/refer

✓ Email the completed form to:
admin@advocacyfocus.org.uk

Got an urgent question?

A **Duty Advocate** is available during office hours. Chat instantly about any questions you may have at: www.advocacyfocus.org.uk



Children's Rights Services in St Helens

Providing a service which supports life improvement for all children and young people in care, children in need, or those going through the child protection process

Our Independent Advocates and volunteers champion the rights of young people

We ensure that every young person's voice is heard

We believe in putting young people at the heart of any decisions that affect their lives

We help young people live the lives they want to live



Chat to an Advocate online now

www.advocacyfocus.org.uk



admin@advocacyfocus.org.uk



www.advocacyfocus.org.uk



0300 323 0965

Independent Advocacy



Advocacy is a vital safeguard for children going through child in need or child protection proceedings, who are in care, or are leaving care. Many are not consulted about matters affecting their lives.

Our Advocates can:

- ✓ Communicate the wishes and feelings of a child or young person
- ✓ Attend decision making meetings
- ✓ Uphold their legal rights and human rights and ensure that they are fairly treated
- ✓ Explain information, processes or options available, in a way that they understand
- ✓ Assist in making a complaint or in challenging decisions
- ✓ Support with the transition of leaving care
- ✓ Help access relevant services such as financial services or employment services.

Children's Rights Helpline 0300 303 4170



Safeguards and protects the rights of children and young people in care. Our Children's Rights Helpline provides important information and protects their rights whilst in care.

Our helpline will ensure children:

- ✓ Are aware of their rights
- ✓ Have their say about things that are affecting them
- ✓ Are provided with information and advice to better inform them
- ✓ Guide them through their concerns
- ✓ Help them plan for their future and leaving care
- ✓ Help find them an Independent Visitor, a volunteer who befriends and supports them during their time in care.

Our Advocates will help to promote all the things that are in a child's best interests, such as their education, placements, contact arrangements and their futures.

Independent Visitor (IV)



An IV is a volunteer who befriends children and young people in care. It is reported that Independent Visitors can encourage them to take more productive paths in life.

Our Independent Visitors will:

- ✓ Develop long-term friendships, visit regularly and maintain consistent letter, phone or text contact
- ✓ Ensure the child has someone to listen to them
- ✓ Encourage the child or young person to seek help from a professional or Advocate should they need it
- ✓ Be a positive role model
- ✓ Motivate them to develop new interests, skills or hobbies
- ✓ Take them on outings and encourage educational journeys and development.

An Independent Visitor can sometimes be the only person who is not paid to be there for them.

