



Children and young people's advocacy

Our Definition of Advocacy

The Children's Involvement Team support and enable children to exercise their rights and express their views. We aim to ensure they are genuinely heard and their voice influences the child protection process and Plan.

Our Values

- We will always seek the permission of a parent or carer before offering advocacy to the child.
- We will provide advocacy to children aged 5-17 unless they choose to opt out.
- We will ensure that all children have the opportunity to meet their advocate on their own and where possible, in a place that suits them.
- We will provide clear and accessible information regarding our role as an advocate.
- We will be clear with children from the start about; what we will and won't do, confidentiality, when the advocacy relationship will end and how to make a complaint.
- We will use age appropriate tools and techniques to gain children's views.
- We will work in an inclusive and child centred way.
- We will offer children the opportunity to attend conference and speak for themselves. We will prepare and support them throughout.
- We will advocate on behalf of children unable or unwilling to attend the conference.
- We will not make decisions, judgments or express our personal opinions in any way.
- We will only share information that the child has given us with their permission, except where it puts a child at risk.
- We will endeavour to share all information we receive with the child, unless we are advised by a professional that doing so may put them at risk of harm.
- We will meet with a child following the child protection conference to feedback and to gain their views on what was discussed.
- We will gather themes through systemic advocacy to influence the child protection process.
- We will give the child the opportunity to evaluate the advocacy they received.