



Worcestershire Children's Advocacy

Supporting Children & Young People
to Speak up and be Heard

 **ONSIDE**
Charity Number 1102022

Introduction to ONSIDE

The Worcestershire Children's Advocacy Service is provided by ONSIDE, a local charity with wide experience in delivering advocacy, mental health and wellbeing services for adults, children and young people (CYP).

Children's Advocacy is vital in providing an independent person able to ensure that the voice of the CYP is heard and their rights upheld. An advocate enables CYP to participate in decisions affecting their lives and have a voice in situations they might find challenging.

Who can an Advocate support?

ONSIDE provides independent advocacy for CYP who may be living in care, supported by a social worker, living with disability or care leavers.

ONSIDE's advocates will act as a bridge between the CYP and various systems, such as legal, educational or healthcare - helping the CYP to navigate complex situations.

How can an Advocate help Children and Young People?

- Support the CYP at meetings
- Help the CYP speak to their social worker or other professionals
- Help the CYP understand their rights, including where they live and who they live with
- Help the CYP to make a complaint if they're not happy about something to do with their care





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Why Advocacy is important

An advocate is an independent person who can support the child or young person (CYP) to speak up and tell people their views and feelings about things happening in their life and decisions that will affect them.


An advocate is a friendly and experienced person who will take the time to listen carefully to the CYP and get an understanding of them and their situation.

They will help the CYP to think about choices and options, make sure they understand their rights and have access to the right information, advice and guidance.

How to contact an Advocate?

The CYP can contact the service directly or any adult supporting them can make the referral.

 cypadvocacy@onside-advocacy.org.uk

 01905 27525

 www.onside-advocacy.org.uk/childrens-advocacy

What happens next?

The CYP will be allocated an advocate who will contact them to arrange a visit at a time and place to suit them.

The advocate will talk to the CYP about the things they would like support with.

With their permission, the advocate will make sure that their views, wishes and feelings are shared with the people involved in making decisions about them.