

Advocacy ensures
your voice is
heard



The
Children's
Society

Black Country
Advocacy Service

WHO WE ARE

The Children's Society Black Country Advocacy Service is an independent, confidential service in Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall. It's for children and young people who are in care, leaving care, or who have a social worker.

When you are looked after or in the care of children's services, remember you have the right to:

- * Have a say in decisions that affect your life
- * Be listened to and taken seriously
- * Use an advocate to help look after your rights
- * Not be hurt or abused
- * Be treated fairly, whatever your race, religion, sexuality, gender, language or disability
- * Have your health looked after
- * Get the most out of your school or college.

**Independent
confidential
service**



WHAT IS AN ADVOCATE?

An advocate is a person who can help you say if you don't like something or if you don't agree with a decision that affects your life. Advocates are independent and confidential – they don't work for the council or children's services and they will not tell anyone what you say to them without your agreement (unless there is something that might cause harm to you or someone else.)

An advocate can:

- * Help you sort out a problem or worry
- * Listen to you and help you understand your rights
- * Help make sure you are treated fairly
- * Help you say what you think about things
- * Help make sure other people are listening to what you have to say
- * Help you sort out a problem the way you want it sorted.



Right now in Britain there are children and young people who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope. The Children's Society works with these young people, step by step, for as long as it takes.

We listen. We support. We act.

There are no simple answers so we work with others to tackle complex problems. Only together can we make a difference to the lives of children now and in the future.

Because no child should feel alone.



**The
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The Children's Society
Black Country Advocacy Service,
The Workspace,
All Saints Road,
Wolverhampton
WV2 1EL

Freephone: **0800 652 3839**
Telephone: **01902 877 563**
childrenssociety.org.uk