



Advocacy

It's your right.

Your views and priorities matter. An advocate can help you to speak out about the things that are important to you, and make sure you are listened to.



What support can an advocate offer me?

An advocate can support you if you're working with City of London Children's Services. They'll work with you to learn what is most important to you and can accompany you to meetings with other professionals to champion your priorities.

An advocate is a person you can trust. You can speak to your advocate about anything you aren't happy with. They won't share anything you've told them without your permission, unless they're concerned about your safety or the safety of someone else.

The child's right to express their views on all matters and decisions that affect them.

Article 12, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



So what exactly will my advocate to do help me?

**Information
and Advice...**

Your advocate will help you understand your rights and know what you're entitled to.

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**Speak up
on your
behalf...**

They can attend professional meetings with you. They can speak on your behalf if you don't feel comfortable to do so.

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**Make things
clear...**

They can help you to make sense of decisions that are being made about you, including translations.

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Help you...

If you're not happy with a decision, your advocate will help you to challenge this/make a complaint.

Who will my advocate be?



I'm Toby, your Children's Rights and Participation Officer.

I'm independent from the Children's Social Care Team. This means that I'm not part of your care plan, and I can provide an entirely impartial advocacy service to you.

Feel free to contact me via Participation@cityoflondon.gov.uk and I'll be happy to answer any questions, or by phone on 07808 899421 for an informal conversation.



If Toby is not an appropriate advocate for you, for any reason, an external advocate can be arranged easily.

If you'd like an external advocate, let us know via the email address above and we will work with you to ensure you can access an advocate that's right for you.