



gwasanaeth eiriolaeth  
ieuenctid cenedlaethol  
national youth  
advocacy service

# NYAS

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## Mission Statement

“A society where every child, young person or vulnerable adult’s voice is heard and their rights are respected and where they can achieve their potential”

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**[www.nyas.net](http://www.nyas.net)**

# Service Outline



- Professional independent advocacy service
- Active offer
- Independent visiting service
- Appropriate adult service
- Participation
- Additional NYAS Services

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**‘The child has the Right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child’. UNCRC Article 12.**

# Referrals

**350** referrals received from April 18 – March 19

## Referral breakdown:

**284** issue based advocacy referrals

**130** Active offer referrals

**21** Appropriate Adult referrals

**15** Independent Visiting service

Additional to above NYAS has undertaken a number of Independent persons at secure reviews

# Themes and issues

- Support and representation at meetings
- Placement
- Contact
- Leaving care
- Education
- Health

# A Young Persons Advocacy Journey

## Background

Looked after young person with a physical and learning disability , referral made by social worker for advocate to ascertain young persons views about proposed changes to contact with parents

## Agreed Action

Advocate had previously worked with young person and had good rapport . Advocate worked creatively with young person , taking into account his communication needs . They worked together using pictures and symbols to discuss his views, wishes and feeling about contact with his parents . The advocate also actively listened to verbal feedback from the young person who had speech difficulties . With the young person's agreement the advocate shared the work they had done with his social worker



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## Outcome:

The young person's views were taken forward by the social worker and new contact arrangements put in place.

The advocate met with the young person to check that he was happy with the plan. The young person fed back that they were on the whole happy with the changes that had been made, but expressed to the advocate that they felt somewhat let down by their parents and was happy for the advocate to feed this back to their social worker.

The advocate received positive feedback from the social worker who stated that the young person was "really pleased" and was looking forward to the newly introduced overnight stays with mum and dad. The social worker was very complimentary of the way the advocate had been able to engage the young person and undertake this very important piece of work placing the young person at the very centre.



# Feedback from A Young Person

“My situation is moving forward thanks to the service I was provided. I feel everything is as it should be and running smoothly. I feel a lot more confident in myself and also with my local authority. NYAS has really helped me feel settled within myself, I really feel I can accomplish anything I focus on. I feel that I am able to continue studying which I have been wanting to do for ages and live the life that other teenagers my age get to live. I feel more normal and ready to take each day as it comes !!! I won't hesitate to contact my advocate in the future if needed !!!” (Care leaver age 18)

# Development

- Active offer processes need to be fully embedded.
- Awareness raising with teams
- Induction and training for Children's Services on advocacy
- Awareness raising within education /health/other sectors
- Accessibility for children detained
- New National Advocacy reporting template being piloted
- Systematic change , processes and mechanism

# Participation

## The Bright Sparks Club

- ARCF annual Event
- Welsh Government IV Service development
- Children Looked after resources
- Child friendly City
- Cardiff and Vale health Board consultation
- Amnesty Children's Rights Leaflet

# Additional NYAS work/development

- NYAS Cymru
- IV Standards
- Mental Health and Well-Being Project
- Unity Project
- Peer Advocacy /Peer Mentoring
- Parent Advocacy

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Thank you  
Any questions?

