

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

22 January 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

NYAS UPDATE

Reasons for the report

1. This report sets out an update regarding the work undertaken by NYAS Cardiff Advocacy Service for the reporting period of April – September 2023.

Background

2. The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) is a national charity providing information, advice, advocacy, and legal representation to some of the most vulnerable children, young people, and adults across the UK. NYAS Cymru is a registered provider of advocacy services under RISCA 2016.
3. NYAS Cymru is commissioned by Cardiff and the Vale to provide a regional advocacy service to children and young people in receipt of support from Children's Services.
4. NYAS Cardiff Advocacy Service offers independent professional advocacy (IPA) to children and young people aged 0-25 who are involved with Cardiff Children's Services. The overall remit of the project is to enable and empower children and young people to have a voice and to effectively participate within decision making processes.
5. The service ensures that the rights of children and young people involved with Cardiff Children's Services are upheld in accordance with legislative and policy framework within Wales.
6. The service provides both the active offer of advocacy and an issue-based advocacy service.
7. For the financial year April 2023 and up until Sept 2023, 408 referrals were received into the Advocacy Service.

Issues

8. The Advocacy Service has received a total of 17 referrals for children and young people placed out of county, including those from neighbouring authorities as well as those residing further afield in both Wales and England.
9. The service has continued to provide an accessible and inclusive support for those referred in and have provided support to 10 UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children), 24 children with disabilities, 6 Gypsy and Roma travellers and 1 LGBTQ+ child and 17 were children or young people placed out of county.
10. NYAS attend scheduled meetings with social service teams including PA (Personal Advisor), IRO and UASC team to provide information on advocacy support and raise awareness of the advocacy service for Children's Services staff.
11. The service has continued to attend St David's College and Cardiff and Vale colleges on a regular basis and is strengthening advocacy awareness to the large number of care experienced children and young people who attend and has provided support with any advocacy needs they may have.
12. NYAS offer a child led service and will continue to undertake advocacy meetings via Teams or face to face in line with their feelings and wishes as well as age-appropriate methods following Welsh Government guidelines.
13. NYAS are the chosen charity of Deloitte and in October 2023, volunteers from Deloitte, Splash and the Grangetown Pavillion came together to co-design a wellbeing garden area which was opened by Cllr Ash Lister.

Financial Implications

14. This report is for information only and does not lead to any new financial commitments. The advocacy service is funded by Cardiff Children's Services until Jan 2026

Legal Implications

15. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

16. To note the information shared within the update as outlined at **Appendix A** and to discuss way within which the committee can support the needs of the service.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
14 December 2023

Appendix A– NYAS Update

