



Information about a Parent Advocacy

Advocacy is about speaking up about what is important to you

It helps you to say what matters to you. An advocate helps you to speak up for yourself. Sometimes an advocate may speak up on your behalf.

Advocacy is about listening to you and making sure your voice is heard

It is about finding the best way of telling others what you think and want.

Advocacy helps you to make good decisions

It is about helping you to get and understand information so you can make informed decisions.

Advocacy makes sure you are treated fairly

It is about making sure you understand your rights and that these are protected. Advocacy can support you to make a challenge if needed.

Advocacy is independent and free

This means we do not work for the local authority or health services. An advocate works for you and is on your side.

Advocacy is confidential

This means we will not share information about you without your permission. However, we will need to tell someone if you, your child/children or someone else is at risk of harm.

We will also tell someone if the law tells us we must.

We will always inform you first if we need to share information.

Advocacy is issue based

This means you and your advocate will agree a plan so that everyone is clear about what advocacy is about, what support we will provide and when advocacy will end.

About parent advocacy

Parent advocacy supports parents who are involved in child protection and family care proceedings.

A parent advocate can help you to:

- ✓ prepare, plan for and attend important meetings such as:
 - Child protection conferences/decision making meetings
 - Core groups
 - Care planning
 - Solicitor appointments
 - Court hearings
- ✓ Understand information from professionals and ensure you are fully involved in meetings about your child/children
- ✓ Find a solicitor when you are in pre proceedings and/or court

You may be eligible for an advocate if you have one or more of the following:

- A learning difficulty
- A diagnosed learning disability
- Autism and /or ADHD or you are on the pathway for an assessment
- Mental health problems
- An acquired brain injury that affects understanding
- Alcohol or substance misuse that affects understanding

Referrals for parent advocacy can be made by professionals involved with a family.
It is important that you give consent for any referral made.

Please look at our website for more information on advocacy.

You can also access our free resources.

<https://www.warringtonspeakup.org.uk/our-work/parent/>