

What can advocates help with?

- Tell you about your rights and entitlements in hospital, children's homes, secure care, foster and kinship care, and as a young person leaving care
- **Family time:** Help you keep in touch with the people important to you.
- **Care Planning:** Help you to be heard in decisions about your care, including your education; physical and mental health, support services, financial support; hobbies and interests.
- **Pathway Planning:** Check that you are getting the right help and support as a young person leaving care, and ensure there is a plan to help you with your education, training, or employment; benefits or other financial support, and where you will live.
- **Secure Care:** Support you to attend or represent your views at the Multi Agency Panel for Admission to Secure Care.
- **Child Protection Processes:** Help you make sense of what's happening, support you at case conferences and other meetings, and to understand the decisions being made.
- **Separated, Unaccompanied, and Asylum Seeking Children and Young People:** Help you understand your rights and entitlements, and get the services and support you may need.
- **Access to Files:** Support you to get access your social work files and records.
- **Complaints and Appeals:** An advocate can support you to make a formal complaint if informal support does not resolve your concern.



How do I get an advocate?

You can call us on **028 9024 4888** and we will put you in touch with an advocate in your area. You can also contact an advocate directly.

Contact details are available on:
www.voypic.org/meet-the-team



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VOYPIC

 VOICE OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
IN CARE

INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SERVICES



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE IN OR LEAVING
CARE ACROSS NORTHERN

VOYPIC'S INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SERVICES

Voice Of Young People In Care (VOYPIC) provides independent advocacy services for children and young people.

WE PROVIDE ADVOCACY SUPPORT FOR:

- children and young people living in care or receiving leaving and after services.
- care experienced young people aged 16+ who no longer get help from social services.
- children and young people placed in Beechcroft.

From the VOYPIC advocate helping me, the trust are looking at having a better plan in place for Family Time and less meetings with professionals during school time as it stresses me out
young person aged 14

What is independent advocacy?

Independent Advocacy Services help you to have a stronger voice and as much control over your own life as possible.

Advocates help you get the information you need to make real choices about your circumstances, support you to put your views across to others making decisions about your life, and make sure your rights are protected.

VOYPIC's Independent Advocacy Services are separate from social services and other children's social care services. Our independent advocates will not make decisions for you.

I now understand what my review meetings are and was supported to attend and talk about returning to live with my family
young person aged 11

The VOYPIC advocate helped me explain at meetings how I need help and support
young person aged 12

What does an Advocate do?

An advocate will make sure you're heard in decisions about your life and help you to get the support you need. For example, they can:

- Tell you about your rights in care and make sure they are protected.
- Make sure there is a plan for your care, safety, and aftercare.
- Attend professional meetings with you or represent your views, wishes, and feelings.
- Make sure you have the right services, financial support, and practical help to meet your needs.
- Help you challenge decisions about your care and support if you do not agree with them.

