

How can I get an advocate or find out more information?

Speak to your Social Worker or the Child Participation Development Officer and they will talk you through it and see if an advocate is what you need.



Is what I say kept confidential?

Your advocate must promise to keep what you say private unless you agree to it being passed on. But they may have to pass on information to childrens services if they think you might be at risk of harm.

“It’s been life changing...”

“Good person to talk to because she listens well.”

Get in touch

To ask for an Independent Advocate call
Louise MacLennan
Child Participation Development Officer
Call 01344 351 546
Text 07825 682 524
Email:
louise.macLennan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Other useful numbers

Action for Children:
01635 873739 (You will pay for this call)
Coram Voice HELPLINE:
0808 800 5792
NYAS FREEPHONE:
0808 808 1001



Advocacy: Helping you to find your voice



You have a right to be listened to and have your views taken seriously but sometimes it can be difficult to say how you are feeling. We can help you arrange an independent advocate.

What is an Independent Advocate?

It is someone who doesn't work for Bracknell Children's Services. They will make sure you get your views across and your voice is heard. They are on your side and work for you.

When might you want to use an advocate?

- If you feel your views are not being listened to.
- If you are unhappy with the way you are being cared for.
- If you are angry or upset about something that is happening to you.
- If you feel you haven't been treated fairly.
- If no one is telling you what is happening about your situation.
- If decisions are being made about you that you haven't been involved in.
- If you want to make a complaint.



“When I didn't feel confident in a meeting, I had someone to speak up for me.”



An advocate will:

- Help you speak up for yourself or speak on your behalf if that's what you want.
- Listen to your concerns or worries and help you to act on them.
- Be open and honest with you.
- Help you challenge decisions.
- Help you prepare for meetings.
- Explain to adults how you are feeling.
- Explain to you what is happening and what is planned to happen.
- Help you to sort out a problem if you are thinking of making a complaint.

An advocate does not necessarily make things better. There may be some things that can't be changed, but they will make sure everyone knows how you feel and help you to understand why the decision has been made.

- You might already know someone that can support you, a person you can trust for example a teacher, youth worker or personal adviser
- Or it could be a volunteer, someone independent who is trained to be an advocate

You can discuss who you think would be best with your social worker.

“I feel I can talk to her openly about everything.”

