

Coram Voice and London Borough of Harrow

Introduction to Advocacy and IV Services

The Advocacy Service



What is advocacy?

Advocates empower children and young people to make sure that their rights are respected, and their wishes and feelings are heard in decisions made about them.

They are **independent, empowering** and **child-led**.

Who do we provide advocacy to in Harrow?

- Children in care
- Care leavers
- Children and young people aged 4-25 accessing Children's Social Care
- Disabled children receiving short breaks under s20
- Children at risk of homelessness, including separated minors

We have provided advocacy for **22 young people** in Harrow so far



We have provided advocacy for **22 young people** in Harrow so far

- Aged 6 – 23 years old
- 9 identified themselves as having a disability
- 15 identified as male, 7 as female
- 10 are living in Harrow

We have provided advocacy for **22 young people** in Harrow so far

- Even split of young people under a Care Order, accommodated under s20, and Care Leavers
- 7 referred by social services, 4 by relatives, the rest were a mix of referrals by other professionals and by self

What issues do young people want support with in Harrow?

1. Housing (5) and Homelessness (2)
2. Moving placement (7)
3. Support at meetings (4)
4. Education, Employment and Training (4)
5. Contact with Family (3)

The Independent Visiting Service



What is Independent Visiting?

A **reliable, consistent, constant** and **independent** friend.

We aim to ensure that the IV continues to visit a child despite other changes in that child's life, until their 18th birthday.

An IV is **always child-focused**.

We have matched **1 IV pair** in Harrow so far

- 4 children are currently on the waiting list
- 7 volunteers are waiting to be matched
- 9 volunteers have nearly finished their on-boarding process
- 14 new volunteer applications received since October

My IV is funny and nice. She's thoughtful and always asks what I would like to do. She's always thinking about what I want. It gives me a good relaxing day so that I can clear my mind.

Harrow young person

Any questions?

