

## Children in Care Council

### Your Second Voice

Did you know that if you are a child in care, you are automatically part of the Children in Care Council (CICC). We think it's important that if you are a child in care you are a member so that you can be listened to when you have something to say about things that are important to you and may affect your life.

The CiCC has an Executive Committee of 4-6 children in care who meet to talk about things which make a difference to them and to all of you. They will then talk to the leaders of Wokingham Borough Council about what you have all said to them, and about what they think needs to be done to make things better.

If you are a child in care and would like to be part of this group, just let us know. You will be invited to activities throughout the year.

The CiCC also has a website which has lots of useful information about being a child in the care of Wokingham Borough Council.

The website can be found at:

<http://childrenincarecouncil.wokingham.gov.uk>



## How Many Times can I Ask for Help?

If you are eligible for advocacy support, you can request the help of an advocate as many times as you need to.

## Will an Advocate Always be with me in Meetings?

If advocates are involved in helping you participate in your Child in Care review meetings, they will empower you to express your views and feelings at future meetings. This is called "self-advocating". Most of you will not need an advocate with you at every meeting – but we can be there if you need us to be. If we are not with you, the Social Worker and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) will make sure that you have the support you need to work out what you want to say at your meeting. The advocacy service is committed to ensuring you have access to independent representation when you need it, whilst promoting positive relationships between you and your Social Worker and IRO.

### Wokingham Borough Council

#### The Children's Rights & Advocacy Service.

**Tel: 07801 664 370**

**E-mail: [childrensadvocacy@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:childrensadvocacy@wokingham.gov.uk)**



## The Children's Rights & Advocacy Service for Wokingham Borough Council

**Tel: 07801 664 370**

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## Advocacy

### What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is about speaking up for you and helping you take part in discussions that affect your lives. Our advocates can make sure that your rights are respected, and your views and wishes are heard and acted upon. Advocacy can make a real difference to your life.

### Who do our Advocates work with?

Our advocates can work with you if you are:

- A child in care
- A care leaver up to the age of 25
- An unaccompanied asylum seeking child or young person (before and after you are 18)
- A child or young person wanting to make a complaint (all children and young people wanting to make a complaint must do this via our advocacy service).

### What can our an Advocates do for you?

- Provide you with support to make sure your views are heard at meetings held to discuss your future (for example, child in care review or pathway plan review meetings). Our advocates have access to IT tools which can help you express your views, wishes and feelings to the people making decisions about your future
- Help you understand your rights, and how to benefit from your entitlements
- Work exclusively with you confidentially when you need our support
- Provide support if you want to make a complaint, and help solve problems through representation, mediation and negotiation.

You can self-refer to the service or can be referred by anyone working with you.

The service is confidential and Advocates will only tell people if they are worried about you or someone else.

