

Advocacy Western Isles
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16th September 2009

**Analysis of Children and Young Persons Advocacy Service
September 06 to September 09.**

The position of Children and Young Persons Advocacy Worker was in the main funded by the Big Lottery. The post was initially for 18 hours per week but within three to four months of the post starting, the demand was such, the position became full time (35 hours per week) and was subsequently subsidised by core funding. Additional funding from Lloyds TSB was acquired from December 08. This report reflects activities undertaken through the Big Lottery funding time period of September 06 to September 09.

The number of cases dealt with by the Children and Young Persons Advocacy service = **145**

Children and Young People accessing the service between the ages of 0 to 21 = **117**

The number of children who have accessed the service:

Pre-school (0 to 4)	6
Primary school age (5 to 12)	31
Secondary school age (13 to 18)	51
Young people age (19 to 21)	29
Total =	<u>117</u>

Children and Young People who used the service and chose to use the service again on a number of occasions **21**

Parents or Carers accessing information on behalf of a young person **28**

Children and Young Person Cases from the areas of:

Looked After	11
Looked After and Accommodated	10
Through Care and After Care	15
Total =	<u>36</u>

Number of Referrals Received From;

Voluntary Sector	14
Parents/Carers	27
Self Referral	61
Enquiries	11
Solicitors	2
MP	2
Action for Children	6
Social Work CnES (4 - Stornoway Team and 7 - Uist Team.)	11
Education Department, CnES.	7
Other Agencies	4
Total =	<u>145</u>

Cases involving education issues = **29**

Issues = Bullying, Exclusion, Additional Support for Learning, Truancy, Ascertain Views on School Life, Recording Pupil/Teacher Incident, Residential School Placement, Support at Childrens Panel re Education Issues, Issues relating to Autistic Spectrum, Timetable Requests and Supporting Pupils attending Review Meetings for the Purposes of CSPs and or IEPs.

Number of Children and Young People accessing the Service who have involvement with Social Work CnES = **31**

The number of cases where Children and Young People have involvement with Social Work, CnES = **72** (this figure reflects how Children and Young People have chosen to use the service again on a number of occasions for different issues).

Other issues dealt with in the Children and Young Persons Advocacy Service are; Anti-Social Behavior, Mental Health, Homelessness, Alcohol and Drugs Issues, Residency & Contact, Student Travel, Benefits, Criminal Injury, Support with Solicitors, Health Care, Support for Children and Young people who are Looked After, Looked After and Accommodated and receiving Through care and After care.

“Many young people face challenges in their lives that, left unaddressed, would limit their capacity to learn and succeed. These challenges may be temporary or long term. Whatever the cause, our schools and other children services must work together to maximize the opportunities for these young people to benefit from the learning environment.”

Ambitious Excellent Schools 2004

The Children and Young Persons service more recently started it's first Self Advocacy group of 17 children who are pursuing issues and funding to make positive changes in their community.

The Children and Young Persons Advocacy Service also undertakes Presentations to various Childrens Groups. The Presentations are inter active and promote Children and Young People to advocate for one another and to always encourage each other to talk and to take any issues they may have to important adults in their lives.

The Children and Young Persons Advocacy Worker is a trained and experienced Trainer for the Introduction to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Training as directed by the Western Isles Children and Young People's Mental Health Strategy.

The Children and Young Persons Advocacy Worker has under taken training:

- Advocacy Skills – CSL Training.
- Child Protection - Child Protection Awareness, Substance Misuse and Child Protection, Core Case Conference Training, Communication with Children and Young People and Court Skills.
- Child Care Law for Residential Workers with the Scottish Institute for Residential Children in Care.
- Advocacy Training: Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland (Certified) - Govan Law Centre
- Advocacy, Additional Support for Learning – Govan Law Centre – this was funded in part by the Education Department (Inclusion and Early Years, CnES)
- Gaelic – Lews Castle College, First Year Gaelic Degree course modules; Communication A, Evaluating and Responding and Communication B (This is to expand the Service to Children and Young People if their language of choice is Gaelic).

Other local courses attended are Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Intervention, STRADA, Alcohol & Substance Misuse and Young People-Sexuality and Mental Health.

Cathy Anne Dunn, Children & Young Persons Advocacy Worker

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Scottish Charity No. SC034774

Supervision/Support Arrangements

Co-ordinator Advocacy Western Isles
Deputy Chair (Advisor to the Childrens Panel)
Govan Law Centre, Mentoring Service
Informal Support Network - Tri Island Advocacy Group (Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland).
Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance

Provision for Advocacy for Children and Young People

Among other responsibilities; - **Role of Lead Professional**

“The lead professional is appointed when two agencies are working together and are delivering a service to a child and the role of the lead professional is to:

- Arrange independent advocacy for the child.”

Getting it right for every child - GIRFEC Lead Professional Highland Pathfinder

Aug 2008.

We have recently been informed that there are new amendments to the Educational (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, they are due to come in to force at the end of this year. It may be of worth to note;

Advocacy Service (Tribunal)

- Scottish ministers must, in respect of Tribunal proceedings, secure the provision of an advocacy service to be available on request and free of charge
- “advocacy service” means a service whereby another person conducts discussions with or makes representations to the Tribunal or any other person involved in the proceedings.

This legislation will go some way to strengthening the role of Advocacy in work with children and young people. Advocacy is also becoming more recognised through guidance and policy on children and young people’s entitlement to advocacy.

Cathy Anne Dunn, Children & Young Persons Advocacy Worker

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