

Advocacy Western Isles
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Advocacy Western Isles provides an independent Children and Young Persons (CYP) Advocacy service for all children and young people who may require it from birth to age 21 through out the Western Isles.

The aim of the Advocacy service is to ensure that the rights of Children and Young People are explored and upheld, they are given a voice and are listened to in order to become involved in decisions that are made about them.

Advocacy support is offered in many areas such as;
Childrens Panel, Residential Care, Throughcare and Aftercare, Family Issues - Residency and Contact, Alcohol and Substance Misuse, Education, Additional Support for Learning Needs, Bullying, Criminal Justice.

The service also undertakes presentations on advocacy and childrens rights to various youth groups and hopes to be able to take this in to schools. The CYP service has also just started it's first collective advocacy group of 17 children who are pursuing issues and funding in order to make positive changes in their community.

We have found young people have a feeling of being valued and being important. We try to ensure that young people are able to influence their lives through expressing their views and have a sense of being listened to regarding decisions and being supported in their choices. The young people also have a sense of confidence and control and have commented;
"Advocacy makes you feel brave."

Through independent advocacy, Agencies should ultimately be able to make more informed decisions which should result in better decisions for Children and Young People.