

# Meet our TEAM



**Sian Williams, NYAS Service Manager**

As your commissioned local provider of issue based advocacy, initial child protection advocacy, return interviews and residential visiting advocacy, I would like to introduce you to our team of professionals who ensure children and young people get the support they need. If you need any further information on our services please do get in touch.

## CONTACT:

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## Advocacy for Initial Child Protection Conference

Advocates can support young people to prepare and express their wishes and feelings for their **initial** child protection conference. They can also attend/represent the young people on the day if requested.

We will contact the child/young person to see if they give permission for our involvement. The social worker should discuss this with the family as well.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Young people subject to/on a CP Plan
- Young people aged 11 or over (we can work with younger siblings on request)
- Initial conference only
- Please note we cannot support Review Conference or Core Groups.

## Issue Based Advocacy

Issue based advocacy is for young people in care or care leavers (0-25), who need support to express their wishes and feelings and uphold their rights.

We can support a variety of issues including placement moves, placement issues, complaints and review meetings or whenever the young person feels unhappy about a decision or action.

Please note **any** young person wanting to make a complaint to the local authority is also eligible.



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## Residential Visiting Advocacy

Residential visiting provides an independent regular advocate/visitor to the setting to the young people who are resident. Through visiting on a regular basis the advocate builds relationships with the young people supporting and enabling them to voice their views, wishes and feelings, resolve issues and empowering them to be involved in decisions that affect their lives. Our advocates are also skilled at working with those young people who have a disability and are unable to communicate.

- Visiting advocates work with the young people directly to see if they have any individual issues or collectively as a group relating to their experience of the home. Visiting advocates spend time with young people, listen to their views and aim to empower them to raise any concerns with our support if needed.
- Visiting advocates promote the rights of the child and respect the national advocacy standards and regulations for children's homes.
- Visiting advocates are independent of the staff at the home which means we can support them to make a complaint about their experience if needed.
- Young people can also access our free confidential helpline in between the advocate visiting.

We make monthly visits to **London Road** and **Haviland Way** and fortnightly visits to **Woodland Lodge**.

## Return Interviews

We can provide an Independent interviewer to discuss a missing episode with a young person in care (up to 18).

These are referred to us directly via the MET Hub and are usually for children and young people placed out of area.

Requests to us should be made when the young person returns.

Interviews are a non-judgmental discussion, to enable the young person to share their experiences.

## How to refer a child/young person to NYAS

Please discuss this request with the young person as we will need their consent. We are a child led service. To make a request, please complete an online referral form on our website or call our Helpline:

**[www.nyas.net/referral](http://www.nyas.net/referral)**

**Helpline 0808 808 1001**

If you have a query and wish to have a discussion before referring, please contact the team member directly on the numbers listed and we are more than happy to assist.

