

An advocate can help you at your Family Group Conference by helping you think about what you would like to say and how you would like to say it. An advocate can help to ensure that your views are listened to by the adults at your meeting, and that what you think is taken into account when decisions about your future are made.



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Brighton BN1 3FD

Phone: 01273 295510  
Free phone: 0800 052 4280  
Or young people can call us on  
Free phone: 0800 052 4280  
[www.bhyap.org.uk](http://www.bhyap.org.uk)

Brighton and Hove  
Children and Young People's  
**TRUST**



Advocacy for your  
family group  
conference



Information for children &  
young people

Tel: 0800 052 4280

## Advocacy . . . What's that?

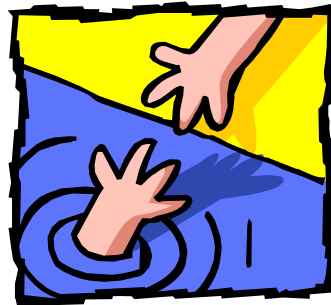
Advocacy is about helping someone to have their say.

Advocates from "YAP" listen to the wishes and feelings of children & young people and help them to find ways to express these to other people at Family Group conferences.

This can be really helpful if you feel shy about speaking up, or if you worry that the adults won't understand or won't take what you say seriously. When you work with an advocate from "YAP", you stay in control of what we do. We can give you information and advice, or help you look at your choices and

possible solutions to problems you are facing. **We take our instructions from you!** And that means that you can decide to go to your family group conference with an advocate, by yourself, or you could choose to have an advocate go for you if you really don't want to attend.

**The important thing is that you have a right to be heard.**



### Can you trust us?

The Advocacy Project is a **confidential** service, and this means that we don't share any information you tell us **unless you ask us to**. We won't talk to your social worker,

or your teachers, or your parents, or your carers, or anybody else without your permission. The only time we would break this promise is if what you told us was so **serious** that we **had** to tell somebody else - like if you told us that you or someone else was being harmed. If you have really **BIG** things like that to talk about, then check out with us first what sorts of information we would or would not have to pass on.

You can phone us for free. . .  
Or you can ask a parent, your co-ordinator, or a friend to contact us for you.

### "YAP"

Brighton & Hove  
Youth Advocacy &  
Participation

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