

An Advocate working with a child or a young person must act in their best interests and be independent of any other associations.

## Eligibility Criteria

Asist Advocates can help if they are:

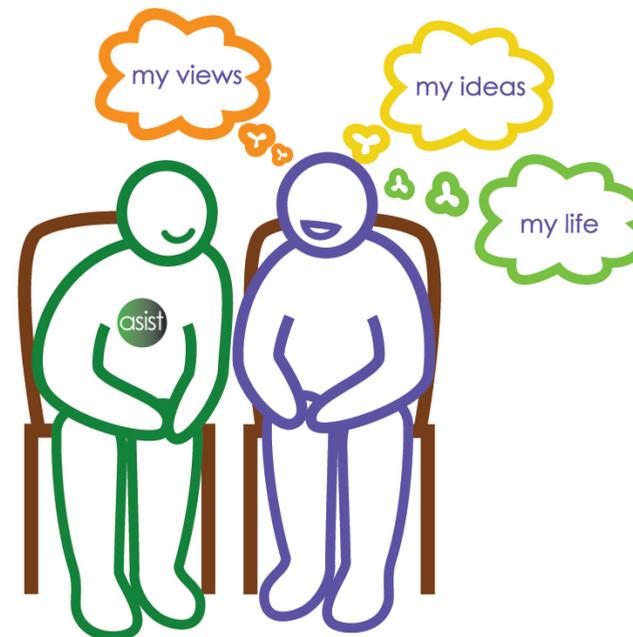
- aged between 5 and 18
- from Stoke-on-Trent and are a looked after child, have a child protection plan or have a child in need plan
- aged 5 - 25, from Stoke-on-Trent and have a disability or are a care leaver (Staying Put legislation).

We can guide you through the process or support you.

Listening to people is at the heart of what we do.

## Advocates can:

- ✓ make sure a child or young person's wishes and feelings are known
- ✓ attend decision making meetings on behalf of a child or young person
- ✓ uphold a child or young person's legal rights and ensure they are fairly treated
- ✓ provide impartial information to the child or young person
- ✓ Ask questions to relevant people and speak on the child or young person's behalf.



Make Advocacy Count  
Our commitment to our advocacy partner is:

Our work will be  
**about You**

We will work  
**for You**

We will work  
**with You**

Meetings that we can provide support for include:

- Best Interest Meetings for individuals with learning disabilities that lack capacity (age 16 years plus)
- Initial assessment meetings
- Review meetings
- Transition Review meetings
- Children in Need (CIN) reviews
- Short break reviews
- Setting up of care packages

'Looked after children' can ask for an advocate at any point. 'Looked after children' means those who are in care by agreement of a parent or under a court order.

## Case Study:

A young person was supported by an IMHA during meetings, a tribunal hearing, safeguarding process and discharge planning.

The young person found the interactions between parents and clinical team difficult and felt unable to attend the meetings or take on what was being said.

With permission and instruction from the young person, Asist passed on their wishes in these meetings and provided feedback. Asist explained the professionals concerns to the young person so they could understand the concerns the clinical team had with her returning home, and what they wanted to see from her during s17 leave to reassure them that she would be ready to progress with her leave and ultimately be discharged.

Between the clinical team, community team and family a treatment plan was agreed including graduated leave. The young person withdrew their request to appeal, so a previously postponed hearing was canceled. She also agreed to remain in hospital and work with the clinical team towards discharge.

To make a referral or for more information please contact Asist or visit our website.

Office hours are: Monday to Friday 09.00 - 17.00



referrals@asist.co.uk  
www.asist.co.uk



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01782 845584 / 0300 800 1000  
or text 60777 and start your  
message with Asist

Referrals can be made by telephone or with an advocacy referral form, available on our website.

Asist offers free advocacy awareness sessions.



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Company No. 3068125

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## Children and Young People's Advocacy



asist making advocacy a right not a privilege