

Advocacy and the ALNET Act (Wales) 2018 for Children and Young People with Additional Learning Needs

Advocacy is about...

- speaking up for children and young people.
- empowering children and young people to make sure that their rights are respected and their views and wishes are heard at all times.
- representing the views, wishes and needs of children and young people to decision-makers, and helping them to navigate the system.

Different types of Advocacy:

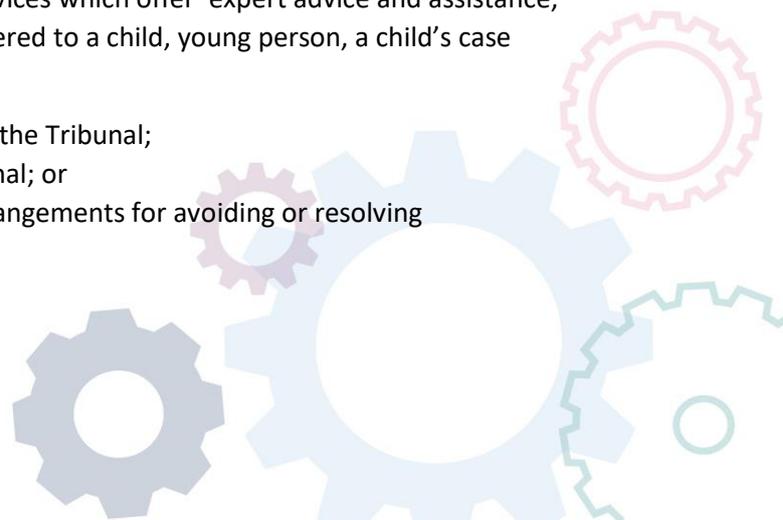
There are different types of Advocacy, some of these you may already recognise:

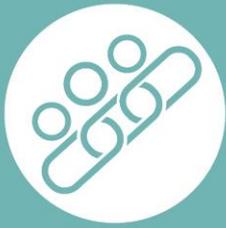
- ✓ Peer Advocacy – This is when an individual might receive advocacy support from someone who understands their situation because they've been there, or are in similar circumstances to themselves.
- ✓ Formal advocacy - Some professional roles have an element of advocacy within them, for example some school staff, support workers, youth workers, or a Parent Partnership Service worker. These professionals will often already know you and may be able to support you to express your views and wishes.
- ✓ Independent Professional Advocacy - In some circumstances an individual may be able to access an Advocate whose job is to provide them with independent support to get their voice heard.

Who can have an Independent Advocate?

The ALNET Act says that Independent Advocacy services which offer 'expert advice and assistance, by way of representation or otherwise' must be offered to a child, young person, a child's case friend, where the child or young person is:

- making, or intending to make, an appeal to the Tribunal;
- considering whether to appeal to the Tribunal; or
- taking part, or intending to take part, in arrangements for avoiding or resolving disagreement





Parent Partnership Service



What is a case friend?

Case friend means a person appointed by the Education Tribunal under section 85 of the Act for children who lack capacity.

How can I get an Advocate or find out more information?

Pembrokeshire's Parent Partnership Service can offer formal Advocacy to children, young people and their case friends, aged up to 25 years. The Parent Partnership Service have staff trained in Advocacy from Independent Advocacy providers TGP Cymru and the National Youth Advocacy Service. The team can offer impartial, confidential and skilled advocacy to children, young people with ALN, or (when appropriate) their case friends.

The Parent Partnership Service will also make a referral to an Independent Advocacy Service –TGP Cymru- in circumstances when this service is required.

What must professionals do?

Whilst children and young people can choose to ask for advocacy, professionals supporting a child or young person with ALN, who is either:

- making, or intending to make, an appeal to the Tribunal;
- considering whether to appeal to the Tribunal; or
- taking part, or intending to take part, in arrangements for avoiding or resolving disagreement

should actively offer the chance to use an Advocate whenever necessary. If the offer is initially declined, it should still be offered at regular intervals or whenever necessary, such as during an IDP Review.

For more information contact:

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