

RECONSTRUCT OFFERS ADVOCACY SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Advocacy is helping someone have their say, representing views, feelings and wishes to ensure they are fully considered by decision makers. Advocacy is empowering children and young people to ensure their rights are respected.

Advocacy is about making sure that children and young people are given a voice, that they get the help they need when they need it and making sure that someone is always ready to listen to them and act quickly to support.

ABOUT OUR SERVICE:

Reconstruct are a separate service, completely independent of a Local Authority. Our role is to support and relay the views and wishes of the child or young person and to ensure their voice is represented.

There are many reasons why children and young people have an advocate; they might request an advocate themselves, or may be referred by a Carer, a Social Worker or another Adult who feels that they should have access to Independent Advocacy Support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A REFERRAL, CONTACT US:

 0800 0209 858

 ADVOCACY.BRISTOL@RECONSTRUCT.CO.UK

 VISIT INFO.RECONSTRUCT.CO.UK/BRISTOLPORTAL

Our Advocates work closely with young people to build strong relationships, supporting them to discuss and put forward their views and feelings. Our Advocates help them with attending meetings, understanding processes and procedures, and communicating their thoughts and wishes, no matter what these may be.

OUR ADVOCATES CAN HELP YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR CARE BY:

- ✓ Meeting the child or young person before any Child Protection Conferences or Looked After Review Meetings.
- ✓ Explaining what happens at these meetings, who will be there and what is likely to happen.
- ✓ Helping the child or young person understand and navigate processes, assisting them to better understand why certain processes exist and why others may be worried about them.
- ✓ Listening to what they think and how they feel.
- ✓ Attend meetings on the child or young person's behalf, or with them, and ensuring they have their say.
- ✓ Helping children and young people understand their rights and giving them the support to say what they want to happen.
- ✓ Making any relevant phone calls or writing letters to support children and young people through the process.

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