

# The Children's Rights and Independent Advocacy Services



promoting children's human **rights**



## **What are the *Children's Rights and Independent Advocacy Services*?**

This service is staffed by the *Children's Rights Officer* for *Dundee City Council Social Work Department* and *The Who Cares? Scotland* worker for Dundee.

The *Children's Rights Officer* can:

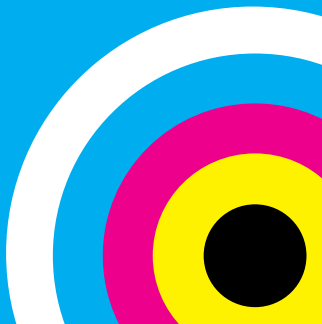
- *support young people to have their say and speak on their behalf, if they request it*

- *give support and advice to children and young people with disabilities*
- *help stop things that should not happen.*

The *Who Cares? Scotland* worker gives support and advocacy for young people who are “looked after” and accommodated by *Dundee City Council Social Work Department*.

## **Who can use the *Children’s Rights and Independent Advocacy Services*?**

- *Children and young people who are being “looked after” by Dundee City Council.*
- *Children and young people who have been looked after in the past.*
- *Children and young people who have a disability.*
- *People with parental responsibility for children and young people with a disability.*



The term 'looked after' could mean that you live:

- at home under an order from the Children's Panel
- in a residential setting for young people
- in a residential school
- in a secure unit
- in a foster or family placement

Also, if you are a child or young person with a disability, you or your parents are entitled to advice, support and advocacy from the *Children's Rights Officer*.

## **What if I live outside Dundee?**

You still have the same right to advice and support from the *Children's Rights Officer*. If you do live outside Dundee, the *Children's Rights Officer* will make contact with you and ask if you would like a visit.

There is no pressure, the choice is yours.



## **How do I contact the *Children's Rights Officer?***

Phone **0800 163 538** - This is FREE and you can talk directly to the *Children's Rights Officer*. You can write a note to the address provided. If you don't want to contact the *Children's Rights Officer* yourself you can ask someone you trust to do this for you.



## **What if I get the answering machine?**

Listen to the message and leave your message after the 'beep'. The *Children's Rights Officer* will ring you back. The time taken to get back to you will be from a few minutes to 1 day, depending on how busy the *Children's Rights Officer* is.

Don't forget to say your name and how you can be contacted. The *Children's Rights Officer* has a private office and will be the only person who hears your message.

### **Can I talk to the *Children's Rights Officer* in private?**

Yes, the *Children's Rights Officer* will go along with arrangements that suit you best.

### **Will what I say be kept confidential?**

The *Children's Rights Officer* will not pass on anything you say without your permission UNLESS you or another person are being harmed or are in danger.


This may have to be reported and if this happens, the *Children's Rights Officer* will support you and let you know what is going on. The *Children's Rights Officer* works for you and you should have a say in what should happen, where this is possible.

## **How can the *Children's Rights Officer and Independent Advocacy Service* help me?**

The service can:

- *Explain what your rights and responsibilities are*
- *Help put a stop to things that should not happen*
- *Make sure those caring for you are listening to what you say*
- *Help you with complaints or things you are not happy with*
- *Put you in touch with other people who can give you help and advice*



- 
- A stylized graphic of a hand in shades of yellow and orange, positioned on the left side of the page. The hand is open, with fingers slightly spread, and appears to be reaching towards the text.
- *Go with you to support you in having your say in a Childrens Hearing*
  - *Help you put forward your ideas about what is good about services for children and young people and what needs to change*
  - *Make sure you are treated fairly at all times*
  - *Organise a support group for young people living in foster care or in a residential setting*

## Who else can I talk to?

Other important numbers...

- ***Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People***  
85 Hollyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AU  
Tel: 0131 718 6048  
***[www.cypcommissioner.org](http://www.cypcommissioner.org)***
- ***Director of Social Work***  
Floor 7, Tayside House, Crichton Street, Dundee  
Tel: 01382 433712
- ***Children's Reporter***  
91 Commercial Street, Dundee  
Tel: 01382 435460
- ***Scottish Child Law Centre***  
54 East Crosscauseway, Edinburgh EH8 9HD  
Tel: 0131 667 6333

- ***Childline***  
Freephone 0800 1111
- ***Childline for Children in Care (Looked After)***  
Freephone 0800 884444
- ***Childline Bullying Helpline***  
Freephone 0800 441111  
Mon-Fri 3.30pm-9.30am



## Contact Details

### *The Children's Rights Officer*

11 Castle Street,  
Dundee DD1 3AA

**FREEPHONE: 0800 163 538**

Mobile: 07946 321459

### *The Who Cares? Scotland Young Peoples Worker*

11 Castle Street, Dundee DD1 3AA

Phone: 01382 202888

Mobile: 07712 866835



Social Work