

DERBY CHILDREN'S RIGHTS SERVICE - INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY

Referrals – Issue Based Advocacy	Total
Young people referred to the service 2022-23	59
Young people in Derby	19
Young people out of area or at a distance	40
Visits to Derby City Residential Homes	24
Number of matters raised for young people	59
Number of matters closed for young people	63
On-going open cases at end of March 2022	48
Referrals - Child Protection Advocacy	Total
Young people referred to the service 2022-23	18
Conferences participated in	25

Comment from IRO reporting back after meeting with YP :-

"I have been out to see YP today and he is happy with the support and advocacy that he has received from your advocate and feels that the things that he has wanted to happen have been achieved and progress has been made. He does not feel that he needs further advocacy at this time and does not need advocate to attend his review next week. I have suggested to YP that if he changes his mind on further advocacy at any time, I or one of the workers at the residential home can quickly get back in touch with you and YP is happy to leave it like that."

Issue based advocacy matters: Change Grow Live provide Independent Advocacy for all looked after children and care leavers from Derby City, either by referral from others or direct contact with our service. Independent advocacy ensures the wishes and feelings of the child/young person are heard, young people remain at the centre of all decision making, and their rights are protected.

Whenever possible, advocates seek resolution on behalf of the young person. Overall, the largest number of matters arose relating to living arrangements followed by support to prepare for a review. Occasionally a young person will choose to raise a formal complaint. During 2022-23 no formal complaints were raised.

Independent Advocacy at residential homes in Derby: Change Grow Live provide monthly 'clinics' to four Local Authority children's residential homes in Derby.

DERBY CHILDREN'S RIGHTS SERVICE - INDEPENDENT VISITORS

Referrals & Matching - Independent Visitor Service	Total
Young people referred to the service 2022-23	7
Young people newly matched	6
Year-end on-going relationships in Derby City	7
Year-end on-going relationships less than 20 miles away	13
Year-end on-going relationships out of area > 20 miles	11
Referrals withdrawn due to change in circumstances (Including young people who were waiting a rematch)	10
Number of match ends	10
Young people awaiting an IV at year end	5

Why use the Independent Visitor Service? It helps to integrate children and young people into their local community and reduces isolation. Drawing volunteers from their local area helps build relationships, encourages compassion and in turn improves community cohesion.

Activities: A few special activities volunteers arranged with their CYP:

- Women's Football League cup match and League football matches
- Starr Circus events in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
- Walks in Peak District and cave tours
- Visits to various National Trust venues
- Christmas wreath making and visits to see Santa at various locations

[Change Grow Live Volunteer Independent Visitors - Home](#) | [Facebook](#)

(View some of the stories from our amazing Independent Visitors)

When asked if they feel better since going out with their independent visitor some YP said:

- "Yes. I feel more confident"
- "Yes, because I get a break from my sister"
- "Yes, because I have got confident about going out on my own"
- "Yes, because it keeps me busy"
- "It gives me something to look forward to"
- "Fun, enjoyable"

When asked if they believe the young person has benefited from the service, some carers commented:

"YP has become more confident in doing things on her own (without her brothers) and enjoys going out with her IV"

"YP has grown in confidence with his IV. He found it really tough at first as he doesn't feel comfortable with people he doesn't know really well."