



Haringey Council

Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Committee
Title:	Haringey Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service Annual Report – 2012/2013
Lead Officer:	Rachel Oakley
Date:	17 June 2013

1. The Service

1.1. Barnardo's are commissioned by the Children and Young People's Department (CYPS) to deliver an independent advocacy and independent visitor service to children and young people in the Borough.

1.2. The advocacy service:

- Represents the views, wishes and needs of children and young people to decision makers, and to help them navigate the systems.
- Ensures an effective and accessible advocacy service for children and young people.
- Empowers children and young people to participate in decision making processes as appropriate particularly in statutory review meetings and care planning, case conferences and planning meetings.
- Enables the most vulnerable children and young people to articulate their views, concerns and have their story told.

1.3 The Children Act 1989 places a duty on Local Authorities to appoint "Independent Visitors" for children and young people in their care who have had little or no contact with their parents for more than a year. The volunteers are expected to make friends with children, visiting them regularly and helping them participate in decisions about their future.

1 Statistical Info re: YP demographics/referrals



1.2 Total Number of Service Users

	2011 - 12	2012 - 13
Haringey Advocacy	62	66
Haringey Independent Visitors	6	10

1.3 Service Users by Gender

	Female	Male	Not Known
Haringey Advocacy	41 / 62%	20/30%	5 / 8%
Haringey Independent Visitors	3 / 30%	6 / 60%	1 / 10%

1.4 Service Users by Ethnicity

1.4.1 Haringey Advocacy

Asian /Asian British	Black / Black British	Chinese / Other	Mixed	White	Not Known
0/0%	24/36%	9/14%	6/9%	13/20%	14/21%

BME Service Users = **59%**

1.4.2 Haringey Independent Visitors

Asian /Asian British	Black / Black British	Chinese / Other	Mixed	White	Not Known
0/0%	2/20%	3/30%	1/10%	3/30%	1/10%

1.4.3 BME Service Users = **60%**

1.5 Service Users by Age

1.5.1 Haringey Advocacy

0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17	18 - 21	22 - 25	Over 25
1	2	14	10	28	6	5

1.5.2 Haringey Independent Visitors



0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17	18 - 21	22 - 25	Over 25
0	1	4	4	0	0	1

1.6 Service Users by Disability

	Haringey Advocacy	Haringey Independent Visitors
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	2	0
Behaviourally based Disability	1	2
Complex Needs excl. Invasive Care	1	0
Learning Disability	4	1
Mental Health (12 months or more)	3	1
Physical Impairment	1	0
Unknown	13	1
No Disability	41	5

	% Disabled
Haringey Advocacy	18%
Haringey IV	40%

2 Themes and Patterns

Advocacy	IV
Children and young people requiring advocacy re: making complaints about social workers and their placement moves	Not many male Independent Visitor applications
Concerns regarding children and young people needing advocacy with their immigration and Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) as documents not being processed on time	Not many Black male Independent Visitors.
Children and Young People requiring advocacy regarding their citizenship applications.	Independent Visitors not wanting to travel too far out of London re: to meet with their YP

3 Outcomes

4.1 Haringey Advocacy

Outcome	Improved	Improved / Maintained
Ability to express feelings	89%	89%
Able to report safety concerns / complaints	71%	100%
Able to solve conflicts constructively	67%	83%
Increased awareness of rights	80%	100%
Access to information on housing, health,	50%	67%



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benefits, rights or support needs		
Social skills gained / improved	50%	75%
Contribute to planning and decision making	67%	89%
Views and opinions voiced and acted on	60%	70%

4.2 Haringey Independent Visitors

No Service Users have Outcomes Assessed.

5 **Barriers/difficulties in delivering/ managing service/ lessons learnt**

Advocacy	Independent Visitor
Not enough notice regarding YP placement moves	Gate keeper not communicating effectively
Number of referrals being too high	Pool of Independent Visitors not being diverse enough to meet YP needs/demands
Juggling both the IV & the Advocacy role	
Social workers not understanding the role of the advocacy worker	

6 **Summary**

- 6.1 The highest numbers of young people accessing the advocacy service are between the ages of 18-21 – 42.42% (28 young people) and are in the care of or have been in the care of Haringey, with only 4.54% (3 Children) under the age of 10 receiving or being referred to the advocacy service.
- 6.2 There are no children and young people who are subject to Child in Need Plans or Child Protection Plans accessing or being referred to the advocacy service.
- 6.3 A thorough understanding of where advocacy makes a difference to children and young people is needed and the skills needed to become an effective advocacy. Advocacy can come through a range of routes – formally commissioned services from organisations, setting up Volunteer Programmes or mentoring and peer support programmes for vulnerable children and young people – we need to carry out further work to understand what ingredients have the biggest impact on improving outcomes for children and young people.
- 6.4 An action plan for 2013/2014 is attached.



ACTION PLAN FOR ADVOCACY AND INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICES IN HARINGEY 2013 / 2014

No	Action	Responsibility	By
1.	Agree a set of outcome focused metrics for the advocacy and independent visitor schemes within CYPS.	Rachel Oakley	31 July 2013
2.	Research and report on the range of service delivery models for advocacy schemes within Children's services.	Iain Low	31 July 2013
3	Carry out a quality audit of interventions by the advocacy service and independent visitor scheme as part of the departmental quality assurance work in 2013/14.	Iain Low	30 September 2013
4	Ensure robust contract monitoring of the current service provider and review referral processes.	Rachel Oakley	31 July 2013
5.	Consider the relationship between ASPIRE (The Children and Young People in Care Council), the advocacy and independent visitor projects.	Rachel Oakley	31 July 2013
6.	Consider how our 'Young Commissioners in Haringey' can be actively involved with the contract monitoring of the advocacy and independent visitor schemes.	Rachel Oakley	31 August 2013