



**Haringey Council**

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>CPAC: 03 October 2013</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Independent Advocacy Service - NYAS</b>		
<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<b>Marion Wheeler – Assistant Director Children and Families</b>		
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Rachel Oakley – Head of Service, Safeguarding, QA Practice Development</b>		
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:</b>		

1. Haringey's contract for the Independent Visitors Service scheme for looked after children and young people has been awarded to the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS).
2. The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) was founded in 2001, it is a 'not for profit', children's charity managing over 60 projects across England and Wales which is starting to establish itself as a provider within the Greater London area. The organisation supplies a range of independent services such as advocacy, mentoring and participation services to children and young people, their families and appropriately involved adults.
3. The Independent Visitor service is for children who have had little or no contact with their family in the last twelve months. NYAS's Independent Visitor Service will offer long-term, consistent and stable adult relationships for children and young people, who may not experience positive adult friendships. This can consist of simply going for coffee, walks, trips to the cinema, supporting the young person to keep in touch with their religion or culture, help at reviews, help with school work, sport, to sit with, or just listen and talk.



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4. NYAS will employ a part time IV Co-ordinator to support 10 matches with a pool of appropriately trained volunteers. The IV Co-ordinator will recruit, train and support the matched IVs. The Haringey service will receive management support from an established Operations Manager who will prepare management information for contract monitoring meetings. The Co-ordinator will be a part of both national and regional meetings where policy and best practice is shared. IVs will also benefit from ideas from others around free events, discounted services and shops and other ideas to enhance the local services. NYAS has an IV “virtual reference group” on the NYAS intranet, which is an invaluable national resource for IVs.
5. Where NYAS has IV services across the country, we provide reciprocal arrangements for the recruitment of IVs. Haringey Council will benefit from a source of unmatched IVs for children placed out of area.
6. The transfer of the contract from the previous provider has now taken place and targeted recruitment for new IV’s is underway to build up a diverse pool of volunteers for children and young people in Haringey who require as service.