CAN I contact you if I have a disability?

Yes! We can explore the best way to work with you, which may include non-instructed advocacy.

ARE we the right service?

It's the responsibility of the local authority who looks after you or supports you to make sure you can get an advocate. There are different advocacy services for each local authority area across the country. Even if you don't live in your local area should still be able to get an advocate.

You can use our 'Find your advocate' tool on our website by visiting **www.coramvoice.org.uk/advocacy/** or you can contact the Coram Voice Advocacy Helpline on **0808 800 5792** if you need help to find an advocate.

"Things are a lot better now than they used to be... you've found me an advocate and they've written a letter to social services and that's sorted things out."

(Ellie, age 11)

coramVoice
getting young voices heard

Advocacy Helpline
Freephone: 0808 800 5792
Email: help@coramvoice.org.uk
Text and WhatsApp: 07758 670369
Web: www.coramvoice.org.uk
Facebook: /CoramVoice
Twitter: /CoramVoice

Registered Charity Number: 1046207 | Company Reg. No. 3050826 | Coram Voice (formerly Voice for the Child in Care)

ADVOCACY and you

Information for children and young people

coramVoice
getting young voices heard

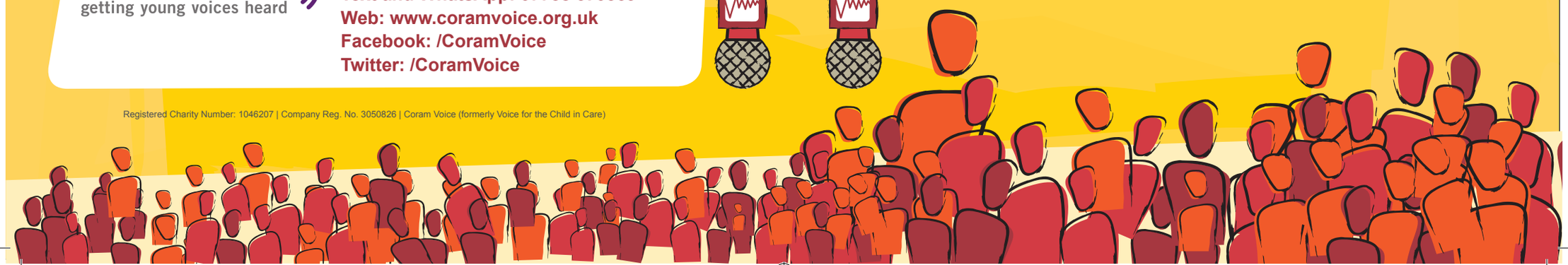
WHAT is advocacy?

Advocacy is about helping you to speak out about what is important to you. You have the right to have your say and be listened to when decisions are being made about you.

HOW can an advocate help?

If you are a child or young person who is in care, leaving care or needs the support of Children's Services then you can ask an advocate for help. You can contact an advocate for lots of different reasons, for example, about...

- Where you live
- Your education
- Seeing family
- Feeling safe



WHAT does an advocate do?

An advocate is someone that can help you to get your voice heard. They are completely separate from Children's Services and work for you. Advocates will listen to you and help you to put your views and wishes across.

What an advocate can do:

Give you... information and advice so you understand your rights

Speak to those... who are making decisions about you (like social workers), to help make sure that you are involved in any plans being made about you

Make sure... you understand what people are saying

Help you... to make a complaint

"... Having an advocate means we are better listened to - not what Children's Services think we are saying, but what we are really saying." **(Hayley, age 12)**

HOW do I get an advocate?

Call us FREE on **0808 800 5792** or email **help@coramvoice.org.uk**.
You can also send a text or WhatsApp message to **07758 670369**.
Our helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am-6.00pm and Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm, with an out of hours service at other times.

WHAT we will promise

Confidential:

We will not tell other people anything you have said without your permission, unless we are worried about your safety or the safety of another person

Independent:

Coram Voice advocates are independent and here just for you. We do not work for your social worker or the place where you live

"My advocate has helped me make a complaint. She gets back to me when she says she will. She takes me seriously."

(Hassan, age 17)

CAN I contact you if English is not my first language?

Yes! We use an interpreting service so that we can communicate with you, no matter what language you speak. If you need this leaflet translating into a different language, please contact Coram Voice on **0808 800 5792**.

