

Advocating on Behalf of Children and Young People (Level 3)

Written by NYAS and accredited by the AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group, this course is for people who are interested in the role of the Independent Advocate. The aim of the course is to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to advocate effectively for children and young people in the care system.

Level: 3

Course Completion Time:

60 hours

Qualification Duration:

12 weeks

What is independent advocacy?

According to government guidelines and legislation, children and young people in care settings have a statutory right to access the support of an independent advocate. The role of the independent advocate is to help children and young people to navigate the care system, understand their rights and entitlements and, if necessary, support them to have a voice and challenge actions and decisions made about their lives.

Independent advocacy is issue-based and child-led, focused on ensuring that the wishes and feelings of children and young people are taken into account during decision-making.

Who is this course for?

The course is recommended for practitioners who currently work in, or are working towards, the professional role of an independent advocate.

What will I learn on this course?

By the end of this course, you will:

1. Understand care journeys for children and young people, and the challenges they face.
2. Know about different models of advocacy.
3. Understand the underpinning principles of advocacy and how they promote inclusive, equality-focused practice.
4. Understand potential barriers to accessing advocacy.
5. Know the issues children and young people may need advocacy support for.
6. Understand the roles and responsibilities of the advocate throughout the advocacy process.
7. Know how to interpret legislative frameworks relevant to advocacy and children's and young people's rights.
8. Understand the importance of confidentiality within the advocacy relationship.
9. Be able to demonstrate effective advocacy practice that empowers children and young people and is grounded in principles of inclusion, equality, and relevant legislative frameworks.

For dates and booking information, please visit the **NYAS website** or contact the NYAS Learning and Development team at **training@nyas.net**

How is the course structured?

The award is worth six credits, which means that you will take approximately 60-hours to complete your qualification with us. This time includes attending the live training events (see opposite), as well as time spent evidencing achievement against the learning objectives. Most people take an average of twelve weeks to complete the course, after which their work is submitted for verification and accreditation by the awarding body.

A named tutor-assessor will support you throughout the assessment process, with one-to-one mentoring and guidance available to all individuals during the accreditation period. You will be required to attend a live Staying on Track support webinar. You will receive additional, printable study resources to support you in your ongoing professional development as an advocate working with children and young people.

How is the course accredited?

The course is accredited by the Aim Qualifications and Assessments Group. The qualification is worth six credits at level 3, roughly equivalent to one-sixth of an A Level (NVQ3). Learners will be expected to demonstrate an appropriate depth of knowledge and understanding.

Attending the live training events

As part of the course, you will attend **three live training webinars**, lasting around three hours each, plus **two shorter additional support sessions** (one prior to and one after the live webinars).

During the sessions, you will take part in a range of activities, in which you will be expected to reflect critically on your existing knowledge and beliefs, take part in group discussions and be able to apply your understanding to specific case studies.

For upcoming training dates, please visit the [NYAS website](#).

Assessment requirements

You will need to meet all of the learning objectives to achieve the accreditation. You will have to demonstrate your achievement using a range of methods. Alongside the activities from the live sessions, you will also be expected to undertake written tasks and obtain an Expert Witness Testimony as evidence of your practice. Additional information about these elements will be provided during the training events.