

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

Written by NYAS and accredited by the Open College Network, 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

Total Qualification Time: 60 hours

Duration: Eight weeks

For dates and prices, visit the **NYAS Training website**

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 in the decision-making process.

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:

- Understand the key principles of independent advocacy – including independence, confidentiality, the re-balance of power, and the importance of being child-led
- Know how the independent advocacy model is different to other forms of advocacy
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of the independent advocate in varied settings
- Understand the different stages of the advocacy process
- Recognise the challenges and dilemmas surrounding the provision of advocacy services
- Be familiar with the legislative framework relevant to advocacy and children's rights
- Be able to maintain safe working practices throughout the advocacy relationship
- Understand the critical role of confidentiality within the advocacy relationship

For dates and booking information, please visit the **NYAS Training 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 be expected to undertake roughly 60 hours of study to achieve the qualification. This includes both the live training events (see opposite), as well as time spent evidencing achievement against the learning objectives. Most people take an average of eight 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 for the full accreditation period. You will also have the opportunity to attend a live support webinar; and you will receive additional, printable study resources to support you in your ongoing professional development as an advocate.

How is the course accredited?

The course is accredited by the Open College Network (OCN). 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. This training meets the requirement for accredited training for independent advocates in England.

Attending the live training event

As part of the course, you will attend **three live webinars**, lasting three hours each. 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, to take part in group discussions and role plays, and to apply your understanding to specific case studies.

For upcoming dates, please visit the **NYAS Training 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, participate in a professional discussion and obtain an expert witness testimony. Additional information about these elements will be provided during the training event.