Advocacy

**1. Can someone under the age of 18 be an ‘appropriate person’ for advocacy?**

Yes. It is open to the individual to invite anyone to advocate on their behalf. Someone under the age of 18 is not excluded from representing a person as an informal advocate (unless they were implicated in a safeguarding enquiry). The [Part 10 Code of Practice](http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/151218part10en.pdf) states: *“It is, therefore open to any individual to exercise choice and to invite any advocate to support them in expressing their views, wishes and feelings”*.

According to the Code, an appropriate individual cannot be:

* someone the individual does not want to support them
* someone who is unlikely to be able to, or available to, adequately support the individual’s involvement
* someone implicated in an enquiry into abuse or neglect