

# LSI YW15(SQA Unit Code-HD9K 04)

## Advocate on behalf of young people and enable them to represent themselves to others



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### Overview

The importance of participation and the involvement of young people are some of the values which youth workers are expected to know about and to apply in practice. Encouraging young people to take part and become involved in advocacy supports the development of young people's skills and confidence.

This standard is about supporting young people to develop their communication skills to represent themselves, their views and interests to others. It also includes identifying what the needs and interests of individuals or groups of young people, and presenting their needs and interests accurately and fairly.

This standard is for youth workers who communicate and act on behalf of young people, or who encourage young people to represent themselves.

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### Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 identify models of advocacy with young people
  - P2 agree with young people the key issues they wish to address through advocacy, the desired outcomes and the information requirements
  - P3 identify with the young people the appropriate people they will need to communicate and engage with, including decision makers and those who influence
  - P4 identify with young people opportunities to participate and to represent themselves
  - P5 assist young people to collect sufficient and valid information to enable them to support and present their views and interests
  - P6 explore and agree with young people how to present their views and interests, based upon a consideration of the anticipated viewpoints of the audience
  - P7 assist young people in planning their presentation
  - P8 ensure that young people represent themselves wherever possible
  - P9 identify with young people, any aspect where they feel they lack the skills and confidence, and support young people to address these
  - P10 work with young people to address any constraints or barriers to their representing themselves effectively
  - P11 identify when it is necessary to advocate on behalf of young people
  - P12 review available information about the needs of young people and collect additional information to ensure accurate and fair advocacy
  - P13 present the interests of young people, listen to the response of others and offer constructive feedback to resolve issues
  - P14 ensure that accurate, complete and up-to-date records of the information presented and the actions taken are maintained
  - P15 review the outcomes of presentations with young people, and agree appropriate consequent actions
  - P16 comply with relevant codes of practice, guidelines and ethical requirements and work in line with youth work values.

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 own role and responsibilities within the advocacy of young people's views and interests
- K2 contemporary models, methods and techniques of advocacy
- K3 typical circumstances where young people may need advocacy
- K4 factors affecting the ability of young people to participate and represent themselves
- K5 methods of assessing the maturity, skills and confidence of young people relevant to presenting their views and interests
- K6 the importance of establishing realistic goals for the outcome of representations
- K7 how to agree the advocacy needed with and for young people including the goals, information needed and how to present the case
- K8 the range of situations where representation may take place, and the factors to consider in preparing for these
- K9 who to contact in order to pursue the interests of young people
- K10 the type of information needed and how to obtain additional information to ensure accurate and fair advocacy
- K11 the importance of preparation when presenting views and arguments, the needs and expectations of the audience, and methods of achieving this
- K12 the difference between decision makers and those who influence the decision making process, and the importance of each
- K13 presentation skills appropriate to presenting views and interests
- K14 typical issues and areas of concern raised through advocacy and ways to resolve them
- K15 how to provide feedback and review the outcomes of advocacy with young people
- K16 how to take any required action following the advocacy representation
- K17 legal, organisational and ethical codes of practice, guidelines and requirements relevant to youth work and own role, and their impact upon own area of responsibility
- K18 the importance of advocating with and for young people in line with the values and principles underpinning youth work

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### Additional Information

#### Values

Working with representatives of the sectors within youth work, LSIS has agreed a suite of values and principles which distinguish youth work from other, sometimes related, activities involving young people. These values and principles are at the core of the work undertaken within youth work and underpin this standard. The behaviours required within this standard include those which reflect particular values and principles.

#### Behaviours

1. Encourage young people to value their views and their right to be heard
2. Challenge constructively any unrealistic views, or those based upon unfounded
3. Treat young people with respect
4. Seek to understand other people's needs and motivations
5. Work towards solutions which are mutually agreed

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**Developed by** Learning and Skills Improvement Service

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**Version number** V3

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**Date approved** April 2012

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**Indicative review date** April 2015

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**Validity** Current

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**Status** Original

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**Originating organisation** Lifelong Learning UK

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**Original URN** LSI YW15

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**Relevant occupations** Youth worker

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**Suite** Youth Work

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**Key words** Youth; young people; values; advocate; behalf; participate; represent; feedback; outcomes; aims; constraints; barriers; encourage; needs; interests; individuals; groups