If you would like more information about AdvoCat please contact us on:

www.coramvoice.org.uk

0207 833 5792

info@coramvoice.org.uk

About Coram Voice

Coram Voice is a leading children's rights charity. We champion the rights of children. We get young voices heard in decisions that matter to them and work to improve the lives of children in care, care leavers and children on the edges of care.

Coram Voice has provided a specialist freephone advocacy helpline for over 20 years and has been commissioned by the Department of Education to deliver the National Advocacy Safety Net and Advice Service for children and young people in and leaving care, through our Always Heard Service. We provide independent advice and help young people get local advocacy support. We provide safety net advocacy when local support is unavailable.

Coram Voice (formerly Voice for the Child in Care).
Registered Charity Number: 1046207 Registered Company Number: 3050826

coram Voice
getting young voices heard



Advocacy for primary school aged children in contact with Children's Services

We are delighted to introduce AdvoCat, developed by Coram Voice to explain advocacy to primary aged children and help children feel confident to express their views about their lives.



We know that although children under the age of 11 have a right to advocacy and should know about it, they tend not to use it because:

- **They don't know what advocacy is or how it could help them.**
- **There is no information specifically for primary aged children explaining advocacy.**
- **They don't know how to get an advocate.**
- **Professionals are not aware that young children are entitled to advocacy support.**

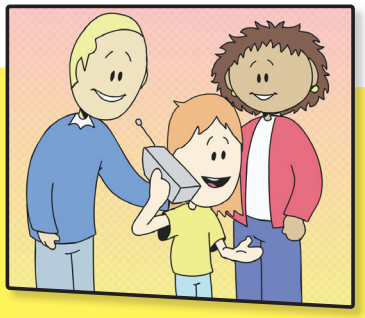
From our expertise in providing advocacy, we know that advocacy is an abstract concept that young children find difficult to understand. At Coram Voice we wanted to put this right, so over the last year have been working with children in care aged 11 and under to find out what would work for them. **The result is AdvoCat**.

AdvoCat is our advocacy mascot who will communicate and engage young children. **AdvoCat** will raise awareness of the role of the advocate and how they can help children navigate the care system and ensure that their views and rights are taken into account by decision makers.

We asked children how they would explain an advocate to another child and they said:



Children told us they often felt they were not listened to, **AdvoCat** has superpowers of speaking out and being heard. It demonstrates what the advocate can do, in a friendly way. **AdvoCat is their everyday superhero**.



To launch AdvoCat we have developed an animation for children and postcards introducing them to advocacy. Our AdvoCat animation can be watched by clicking on

www.coramvoice.org.uk/advocat

Information about **AdvoCat** and postcards are being sent to all Directors of Children's Services, IRO Managers, Fostering Services and providers, Virtual School Heads and Managers of Services for children in care for dissemination to children. This will be followed up with further dedicated information for children from **AdvoCat**.

We are hoping that as foster carer's you can introduce **AdvoCat** to your children so the first time they will see it they will be with someone they trust and then they will have seen how to access it for future support.