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Parent Advocacy

Children's Safeguarding and Family Help (CSFH) recognises the importance of the participation of children and parents in decision-making, and a central way to ensure this participation is by providing advocates to help parents speak up and have their views taken into account.

Camden is committed to being able to provide an advocate for any parent involved in our child protection system. Advocacy in this context is about supporting the parent(s) to speak directly to those in power to make a case and influence decisions that will affect them. Key outcome for advocacy is to overcome power imbalances, safeguard individual rights and achieving social justice.

Making a referral

A referral can be made for any parent involved in Camden's child protection system. Referrals must be made by social workers at least 1 week in advance of an initial child protection conference, and 2 weeks before a review conference.

Allocations will be made from a pool of trained parent peer advocates and professional advocates. If we are unable to accommodate a referral, or if there are additional needs requiring specialist services, we will triage the referral and source an advocate from local services as needed. The service will do its best to accommodate parents' preferences regarding the gender, cultural heritage, or spoken language of their advocate.



Child Protection Advocacy Referral

The Child Protection Advocacy Referral work step initiates the Advocacy Workflow on Mosaic. This can be accessed via the 'Start' option on the Mosaic front screen or 'Start Work' option on the Group Summary screen.

Start

- [Assessment for placement with parents](#)
- [Audit Moderation \(CSSW\)](#)
- [Audit Template CSSW.](#)
- [CAF Referral](#)
- [CAMHS Referral Decision](#)
- [Care leaver 18+ annual offer of support](#)
- [Care leaver contact \(CSSW\)](#)
- [Care Pathways Referral & Panel Recommendations](#)
- [Case Risk Assessment](#)
- [Case Supervision](#)
- [Case Supervision Record](#)
- [CCE Initial Risk Assessment](#)
- [CCE Initial Risk Assessment - Early Help](#)
- [CCE Initial Risk Assessment - IYS](#)
- [CCE Review Risk Assessment - Early Help](#)
- [Child Protection Advocacy Referral](#)
- [Child Protection Transfer \(Out\)](#)
- [Children affected by COVID 19](#)
- [Children and Families Compliance Audit](#)
- [Children's Provision and CYPDS Finance](#)
- [Children's social care case closure \(CSSW\)](#)
- [Chronology](#)
- [CIN census data cleaning - Closure](#)

Social Worker to review and complete Section 1.



Once you have completed Section 1, send the '**Pass to FGC Service Manager** Request to the 'FGC Advocacy Admin'. This request is **mandatory**.



New request

Select	Request type	Status (date)	Assigned to
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Required Pass to FGC Service Manager		

Note

Pass to worker* -- Please select --

This request will be -- Please select --

FGC Advocacy Admin

FGC Service Manager will review the referral and then complete Section 2 '**Advocacy Manager's Decision**'.

Child Protection Advocacy Referral - Next Action

If the decision is no further action, then the Next Action '**No Further Action**' should be selected and this will terminate the Advocacy workflow.

If the decision is made to progress the Advocacy Referral, then the Next Action '**Child Protection Advocacy Review**' should be selected and assigned to '**FGC Advocacy Admin**'.

Child Protection Advocacy Review

FGC Advocacy Admin will complete the '**Advocacy Outcome**' form.



Once you have completed Section 1, send the '**Pass to FGC Service Manager**' Request to the '**FGC Advocacy Admin**'. This request is **mandatory**.

New request

Select	Request type	Status (date)	Assigned to
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Required Pass to FGC Service Manager		

Note

Pass to worker* -- Please select --

This request will be -- Please select --

FGC Advocacy Admin



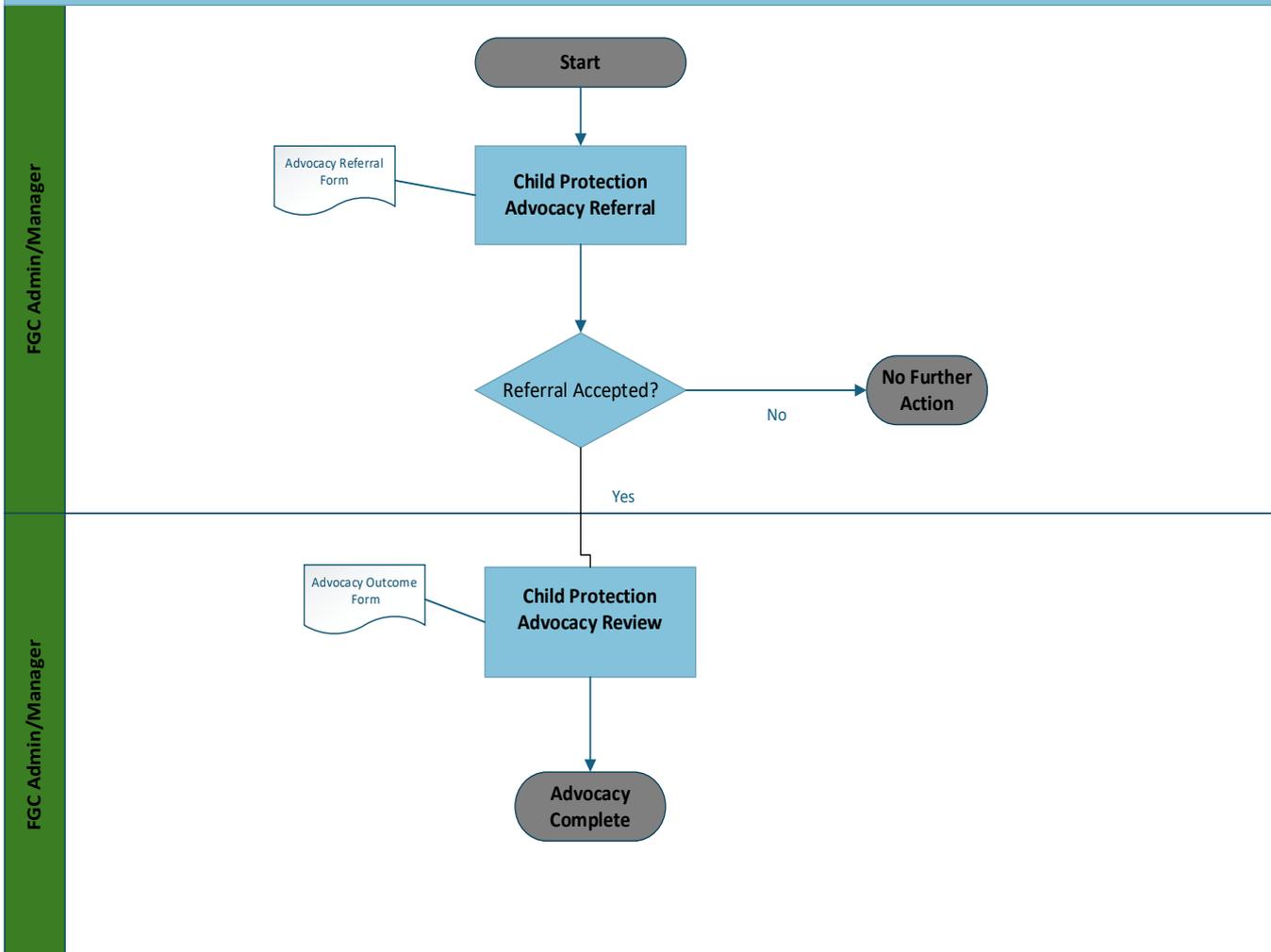
Child Protection Advocacy Review - Next Action

The Next Action 'Advocacy Completed' is a terminating step and will end the Advocacy Workflow.



Appendix A: Advocacy Workflow Process Map

Advocacy Workflow





Appendix B: Child Protection Advocacy Referral - Best Practice Examples

Has consent been obtained by the person who you are referring?

Yes

No

Please specify

The parent has given verbal consent to a referral for advocacy in the upcoming CP conference.

Reason for referral?

Comments

The Social Worker believes that an advocate will be beneficial in this case because the parent is experiencing barriers that impact their ability to effectively participate in the decision-making process. These barriers may include physical or mental health challenges, learning difficulties, or cultural and social factors that contribute to an imbalance of power within social care services.

The parent has expressed frustration with not being able to fully participate in discussions about their child's welfare, which has impacted

their engagement with social workers and the progress of the child's plan.

An advocate would be helpful to support the parent to understand the CP process so that they can have their views heard in the conference. It would also be helpful for the parent to feel that someone is on their side, so that they feel less powerless in the process, and communicate more effectively with services.

Does the person you are referring have a preference regarding the gender, cultural heritage or spoken language of their advocate?

Yes

No

Please specify

The parent would prefer a Spanish-speaking advocate because this is their most confident language, and would feel more comfortable if the advocate is also a woman.

Does the person you are referring have any disability, including learning needs?

Yes

No

Please specify

The parent has dyslexia, which primarily affects their ability to read and decode words. It is helpful for them to have additional time to and visual aids to process information.



Is there anything else we need to know that will help to make sure the advocacy relationship goes well?

Yes

No

Please specify

The parent can take a while to build relationships with new people so continuity of professionals is helpful. The parent would appreciate meeting the advocate in person before the CP conference, as this would help them feel more comfortable