

Jessica's story

Meet Jessica, age 13. She has complex communications needs, uses a wheelchair and requires constant care from staff at her residential home. She communicates in her own way, through what she enjoys, how she reacts and what makes her feel safe.

With the help of an advocate working on a non-instructed basis, Jessica's views and rights are represented in her care planning, even when she can't speak them aloud.

Jessica's story is a hypothetical case study based on our advocacy experience and evidence.



**ACTION ON
ADVOCACY**



It's time

A massive thank you to Wiktorina Orlicka for bringing this story to life with her incredible illustrations!

Jessica is 13. She is disabled, and lives in a residential school. She communicates through her choices and behaviours.



Her social worker refers her for independent advocacy to ensure she can still have a say in decisions being made about her life.



"She loves being outside. However it can be difficult to understand what she likes."



Sean, the advocate, learns what Jessica enjoys and how she expresses comfort and stress.



During all the visits, Jessica chooses to go outside and be read to. These are moments where she feels most settled.

Sean observes how Jessica is supported, making sure her rights to play, dignity and choice are respected.



Sean reflects on the choices Jessica has made and prepares to represent her at key meetings.



Sean makes sure Jessica's preferences guide her care and support.



Jessica's team adapts her plan, making sure her favourite routines are protected.



Non-instructed advocacy gives every young person the right to be seen, heard and respected - no matter how they communicate.

Jessica's story shows the power of non-instructed advocacy.

When a young person cannot communicate with words, it does not mean they don't have views, needs or rights. Through observation, relationships and understanding, independent advocates help ensure that disabled and non-verbal Care Experienced people are not left out of the decisions that shape their lives.

That's why non-instructed advocacy must be protected in the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill - so that every Care Experienced person, regardless of how they communicate, can be heard.

It's time for **Action on Advocacy...**
for everyone.



**ACTION ON
ADVOCACY**
 **It's time**