

ADCS response to rise in calls from Looked After Children to Childline

7th March 2011

Matt Dunkley, Vice President of ADCS responded to calls for additional advocacy services for Looked After Children after a rise in calls from children in care to ChildLine, saying:

“The numbers of children looked after by local authorities is rising and this makes it all the more important that services for them are properly resourced and of the highest quality. Many of these children have suffered from abuse and neglect and require specialist care to help them to recover from their experiences. In our view, investing in the care system itself to secure better, longer, more stable placements should be the priority at a time of reduced resources. More time spent with children and their carers by social workers, freed from other bureaucratic constraints, will also allow problems to be picked up earlier. There are a number of bodies and positions established to provide a voice for children in care and so we do not think that there is a need to add an additional layer of external scrutiny on top of the review mechanisms that already exist – the current review processes, such as the use of independent reviewing officers, needs to be better focused on the well-being and outcomes of the child concerned, rather than with timescales and templates.”

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