



Supporting Young People with Disabilities

Providing Information and Advocacy

Information for Professionals

**Royal Hospital for Sick Children
14 Rillbank Terrace
Edinburgh
EH9 1LN**

Helpline : 0131 536 0583

Office/textphone : 0131 536 0360

Web : www.snipinfo.org

Email : snip@btinternet.com

Patrons : Kaye Adams and Elaine C. Smith

Scottish charity : 000264

Visit our young people's website by following the Young People link at www.snipinfo.org



Cartoons © Colin Young 2007



LOTTERY FUNDED

What is SNIP?

SNIP is a voluntary organisation based at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. It is managed by a committee of parents of children/young people, with additional support needs, and professionals. Most of the staff at SNIP are parents of disabled children and young people. A new service has recently been funded to provide information and advocacy to young people with disabilities aged 14 +.

What does SNIP do?

There are four main areas of our work:

- Giving information, advice and support to children and young people, their families and the professionals who work with them
- Providing training for people who work with children and families
- Talking to people who run services about what families need
- Advocacy

What does the Young People's Information and Advocacy Service provide?

There are three areas of support provided to young people:

- Giving information to young people who have queries and concerns in regards to their physical, learning, or emotional difficulties
- Advocating on behalf of young people to express their opinions to professionals, teaching staff, and other people involved in their daily life
- Supporting young people to develop self-advocacy skills

Providing Information

The Young People's Information and Advocacy Worker can provide young people and professionals with information regarding their disabilities and the issues surrounding them. He can also provide a vast range of other information, such as:

- Benefits
- Rights and responsibilities
- Suitable activities
- Educational settings

The information that will be provided will be made lively and relevant to young people with disabilities. It will be made easily accessible and will enable them to get the most out of this new service. All information will be available on paper, electronically for download from the website and in spoken word. To find out more about alternative formats, please contact SNIP.

Providing Advocacy

All young people with disabilities will have to deal with issues relating to their daily living circumstances. This can be challenging and difficult, especially when discussing these issues with professionals or teaching staff. In such situations young people may be required to be very organised and to become involved with processes and systems which can be unfamiliar and complicated.

Young people may find a situation too difficult to deal with on their own. This can be depressing and frustrating, so the Young People's Information and Advocacy Worker can offer a particular type of support when a young person feels stressful. This is called advocacy, and SNIP offers two kinds of advocacy.

Self-Advocacy

Here the young person will be supported to express themselves in a confident and clear manner. Self-Advocacy is very important in enabling young people to communicate their needs and concerns in the most effective way in order to be listened to and understood. This can also empower young people to have a more influential role with the decisions that affect their life and with the people that make these decisions.

Independent Professional Advocacy

This is when a worker speaks on behalf of a young person about their issues and concerns with other professionals such as doctors, social workers and teachers. The worker must be trained in advocacy and have the young person's informed consent to speak for them.

With both kinds of advocacy, the Young People's Information and Advocacy Worker will:

- Listen to the young person
- Ask the young person questions about their situation and identify with them what their priorities are
- Identify what steps they wish to take

If you would like the Young People's Information and Advocacy Worker to speak on behalf of a young person then we can discuss how to take that forward.

Who is the Young People's Information and Advocacy Worker?

We have recently appointed Colin Young as the Young People's Information and Advocacy Worker at SNIP. Colin is a young man with cerebral palsy, he employs personal assistants to enable him to live and work as he would like. He is a graduate of Loughborough University where he studied politics and social policy. He has a wide variety of interests including theatre, cinema and current affairs. Colin is the main point of contact for young people with disabilities and the professionals working with the young people.

How can I contact the Young People's Information and Advocacy Worker?

Telephone : 0131 536 0360

Mobile : 07988724449

Fax : 0131 536 0583

Post : SNIP, 14 Rillbank Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 1LN

Email : snip@btinternet.com

Young People's Information and Advocacy website :

Colin has developed a website specifically for young disabled people. Follow the Young People link at www.snipinfo.org to access the website.

Presentations

Colin has developed a series of presentations for groups of professional wishing to know more about the service. You can contact Colin to arrange for him to meet with you to deliver one of his presentations or to talk informally about the service.

**Young People's Information & Advocacy Service
Referral Form**

Name of person making referral _____

Job Title _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Name of young person _____

Parents/carers name (if under 16) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Nature of young person's disability

Continues over

Young People's Information & Advocacy Service Referral Form

Nature of enquiry _____

Signed _____

Date _____

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Thank you for referring _____

to SNIP's Young People's Information & Advocacy service.

I have been in touch with them, and am working on their enquiry.

Date : _____

Colin Young

Young People's Information & Advocacy Worker

SNIP

14 Rillbank Terrace

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