

# #QAW25

## Advocacy Awareness Week

13-17 October 2025

### Isla - Young Person, Age 16



Isla had lived in a therapeutic residential placement in London for over two years following early experiences of substance misuse and potential CSE (child sexual exploitation). During this time, she engaged well in therapy, completed her first college term, and began to see a positive future for herself. Although aware she would eventually return to Kent, Isla understood the move would be gradual and closer to her 18th birthday. Already working with an advocate due to poor communication from her social worker, Isla was shocked to learn, via the placement manager, that she was to be moved to Kent within two days, without prior notice. The advocate intervened, highlighting Isla's ongoing therapy, college commitments, and emotional readiness. Isla expressed concern that the move seemed financially motivated and feared it would disrupt her progress.

***"the only thing I can see is that this is about money. I cannot move to Kent, I would not be able to get to college (in London) and I have no friends or family in the area they are talking about moving me to. I'll just end up running away again, like before"***

A complaint was submitted to KCC, resulting in the move being halted. Isla received an apology from senior management and a new social worker was assigned. She later transitioned to supported accommodation in London, allowing her to continue college. Isla remains supported by her advocate and now aspires to advocate for other young people entering care.

Isla thanked her advocate for his support and said:

***"I just don't know what I would have done without you, I want to advocate for other young people when they come into my placement!"***



## #AdvocacyWorks