

Seminar/workshop series: Enabling Children and Young People's Participation - the Role of Adults and their Relationship with Children.

The value of independent advocacy for children and young people

Professor Nigel Thomas

Professor of Childhood and Youth Research
UCLan

Dr Julie Ridley

Reader in Applied Social Science
UCLan

**29 March 2017
4-5.30pm Livesey House Room201**

This seminar will be based on a study of the outcomes and impact of independent advocacy for children and young people, carried out recently for the Children's Commissioner for England. The research included children and young people in local authority care, youth detention and adolescent mental health services – settings which all involve different kinds of vulnerability. It explored how the value of advocacy is understood, both by children and young people and by professionals, and what differences advocacy can make to the lives of children and young people in the short and long term, as well as wider impacts on services.

Julie Ridley is Reader in Applied Social Science in the School of Social Work, Care and Community at UCLan, and an experienced academic researcher specializing in health and social policy and practice implementation. Her work with children and adults has explored user, carer and professional experiences and views, and has included studies of the quality of IMHA, Scottish mental health law, self-directed support, Direct Payments, patient and public involvement, social work practices, forensic mental health services, and employment support.

Nigel Thomas is Professor of Childhood and Youth Research and Co-Director of The Centre for Children and Young People's Participation at UCLan. He has previously been a social work practitioner, manager and advisor, and then a social work educator. His research interests are principally in child welfare, children's rights, children's individual and collective participation (including their active participation in research), and theories of childhood. He has published widely on participation and advocacy for children and young people.

Our seminars are free.

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