



Report sponsor: Andy Smith Corporate Director  
of Peoples Services  
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Early Help

## **Young Carers Report**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper provides an update to the Scrutiny Board on the numbers of Young carers and the work carried out with them.
- 1.2 To give an overview on how the Local authority manages its Statutory duty and responsibility for Young Carers

### **Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 To note the statutory obligation the Local Authority has.
- 2.2 To note the activity and service offered to Young Carers

### **Reason(s)**

- 3.1 To provide an update to the Scrutiny Board on the delivery of the Young Carers Service.
- 3.2 To raise awareness of Young Carers

### **Supporting information**

- 4.1 Section 17 za of the Children Act 1989 (as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) states that a Local authority in England must assess whether a Young Carer within their area has needs for support and if so, what these needs are. This is either:
  - A) It appears to the Local Authority that the Young Carer may have needs
  - B) The LA receive a request from the young person or their parent to assess the need for support.

- 4.2 The offer of a young carers service prior to 2015 ~~this~~ was commissioned out to Action for Children and returned at this point to the Local authority with the Early Help Service assuming responsibility.
- 4.3 From an early age, children can assume the responsibility of looking after a parent or sibling, all children in this position require either an Early Help Assessment or Single Assessment to determine their needs and develop a support offer.
- 4.4 Once a child or young person is identified as a Young Carer, they are allocated an identified worker to develop a plan of support  
This can include an opportunity for respite activities, counselling and therapy support, or support for a parent to ensure relevant care is available and appropriate other services are in place.
- 4.5 The above service to 40 young people at the time of this report is delivered by the Early Help Team in Locality 2. Two identified workers support the service and work with those cases that require additional support other than the formal offer. Some cases require a Step up into social care and often this can be where a parent may have a life limiting illness, or where they are struggling to cope, and safeguarding issues arise.
- 4.6 All professionals including Schools and Health services have a responsibility for recognising a child or young person may be a young carer
- 4.7 General Practitioners are a key group to work with and the Young Carers service have close links to promote their service with them. An article was printed in the British Medical Journal penned by the Link GP and us (see Appendix 1)

### **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 Parents children and young people are asked to reflect on the service they receive via Early Help's How was it for you?
- 5.2 Young People are consulted on the nature and type of activity available

### **Other options**

- 6.1 Prior to 2015 the service was commissioned out to a third-party provider

### **Financial and value for money issues**

- 7.1 This is a statutory service and the grant available covers the costs to ensure that an appropriate service is on offer this is maximised by additional Early Help Services delivered through the core team

### **Legal implications**

- 8.1 If the Local Authority did not offer a service, it would be in breach of the Children Act 1989 and the Children and Families Act 2014.

## Climate implications

9.1 None

## Other significant implications

10.1 The Young carers services offer a clear service to vulnerable children and young people

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Susan Cooper, Principal Lawyer	01/12/2020
Finance	Janice Hadfield, Head of Finance	03/12/2020
Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim, Director for Early Help and Children's Social Care	03/12/2020
Report sponsor Other(s)		

Background papers: List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Journal of General Practice 2019
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