

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL****Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018****Overview of Young Carers Support in Telford & Wrekin: 2018****1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To brief Scrutiny about the provision of information, advice and support for Young Carers across the Borough.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee note the report and, if any, suggest recommendations and or further actions to enhance further the development of the Boroughs offer to Young Carers.

**3.0 INTRODUCTION****Back ground:**

Across the country there are a lot of young people who carry out an indispensable role of supporting other members of their family. Local Authorities work to identify these young people and provide assess and support them as carers

Within Telford there are increasing numbers of families that are being supported by children and young people.

Across the Borough the provision of assessing and supporting young carers has been commissioned and delivered via the Telford & Wrekin Community Voluntary Services who have a Young Carers Service as part of their All Ages Carers Service. In the Young Carers Centre: young carers in Telford & Wrekin from the age of 5 to 24 years of age can receive age appropriate support.

**4.0 KEY INFORMATION**

The 2011 Census informs us that we are aware of 1530 young people up to the age of 24 years across the Borough who are referred to as young carers. This is broken down as 0-15 (504) and 16 to 24yrs (1026). Currently we are aware of approximately 600 young people registered with and receiving support from Telford Carers Centre.

The term young carer is taken to include children and young people under 18 who provide regular and ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances. The term does not apply to the everyday and occasional help around the home that may often be expected of

or given by children in families which is part of community and family cohesion. Caring responsibilities are important and relied upon within the family in maintaining the health safety or day to day well-being of the person receiving support or care and/or the wider family.

The tasks undertaken by children and young people vary, according to the nature of the illness or disability, the level and frequency of need for care and the structure of family. The young carer may undertake some or all of the following types of support:

- Practical tasks such as cooking, housework and shopping.
- Managing the family budget, collecting benefits and prescriptions.
- Physical care such as moving and handling.
- Personal care such as dressing, washing, helping with toileting needs
- Giving medication
- Looking after or parenting young siblings
- Giving emotional support
- Interpreting (either because of hearing or speech impairment) or because English is not the first language.

It can be surprising and humbling to be told exactly what young carers do who are sometimes as young as 5 years old.

When young people access the Young Carers Centre they are supported on three tiers:

- Tier 3: Where there is a young person in a household where there is a vulnerable child or adult requires support. Usually they are not providing caring support directly.
- Tier 2: Where the young person is providing some limited support to either a sibling or parent who is vulnerable.
- Tier 1: Where the young person is providing one to one care for a sibling or parent on a regular basis

The Young Carers Centre links with schools, colleges and school nurses: usually young carer support in schools is co-ordinated in conjunction with health sessions provided by School Nurses. The centre also undertakes assessments of young people who are in Tier 2/3 as part of the Child around the Family Assessment: this approach considers the young person and family as a whole and the aim is to support the young carers to support themselves and their family to remain stable in a community setting. The people with illnesses that young carers support, might have a range of conditions such as: physical disabilities, long term illnesses or special educational needs to mental health issues, like bi-polar, depression, anxiety, alcohol and substance misuse.

These families are often financially stretched, another stress factor for these young carers.

Young carers can have all sorts of needs such as organising their lives, completing school /college work, having time for play or leisure activities, isolation, tiredness, bullying, and lack of confidence. Overall 50% young carers are more likely than other

children and young people to be ill themselves.

In 2015 the Young Carers Service and Adult Carers Service combined to provide an all age information, advice and support service. This has assisted to maintain and support young carers through transition to adulthood, supporting them through moving from school to college/university/employment. The service provides:

- One to one support: Open to Tier 1
- Bi weekly clubs and activities: Age specific Primary Young Carers/ Secondary Carers open to everyone
- Half Term and Holiday activities open for everyone
- Inbetweeners Group: The Inbetweeners Group for 16-24 years provides the opportunity to meet on a regular basis accessing a range of activities, opportunities and importantly peer support
- Befriending for young carers: volunteers: Tier 2
- Drop in sessions at schools in conjunction with Health Sessions (School Nurses)
- Assessments at School
- Young Carers Newsletter: four times a year.
- Key Workers support individuals and families of young carers at TACS (Team around the Child), TAFS (Team around the Family) and Core Groups.
- Parent Assessment at home

#### Local Developments

- NHS England, in conjunction with Shropshire Council lead a campaign entitled Commitment to Carers: The Carers Voice network. The aim was to consider the identity of young carers. The authors accessed local forums held for young carer's young people where they shared their personal stories.
- Through the Carers Voice initiative young carers assisted with the production of a video: <http://www.telfordyoungcarers.org.uk/>
- Following a successful award of a NHS England bid: promotional material is being currently developed to raise the profile and awareness of young carers. The material utilises graphics which the young people have created themselves. (Appendix 1)
- The Carers Centre is working with local business to enhance the Council's offer to develop wellbeing and physical activities whilst combating loneliness.

If you want to find out more about young carers and adult carers in Telford & Wrekin, visit their website [www.telfordyoungcarers.org.uk](http://www.telfordyoungcarers.org.uk) and [www.telfordcarers.org.uk](http://www.telfordcarers.org.uk)

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT**

The budget for Young Carers is a separate budget to that that exists for the provision of services to Adult Carers, the budget for Adult Carers sits within the BCF Pooled arrangement with Telford & Wrekin CCG. The budget for the support of services to Young Carers is £91k in 2018/19.

## **6.0 LEGAL COMMENT**

A young carer, for the purposes of the Children Act 1989, is a person under 18 who provides (or intends to provide) care for an adult.

A specific duty to assess the needs of young carers was introduced by Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which inserted Section 17ZA, B and C into the Children Act 1989. The Young Carers (Needs Assessments) Regulations 2015 set out how Local Authorities should carry out needs assessments of young carers.

Under paragraph 6.58 of the Care Act 2014 Care and Support Statutory Guidance, any children who maybe providing care must be identified and offered a young carers assessment or a needs assessment under the Children Act 1989.

Young carers are also entitled to a transition assessment under Section 61 to 64 of the Care Act 2014, to establish whether they are likely to have a need for support when they reach 18 years old. A young carer, for the purposes of the Care Act 2014, is a person under the age of 18 who provides (or intends to provide) care for another person

Local Authorities must therefore ensure that children's services and adults' services co-operate and work together so that the assessment of the young carer is effective, expertise and information is shared, and processes are linked.

KF-24/10/2018

## **7.0 ACTIONS TO ADDRESS**

**None**

## **8.0 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The current All Age Carer Service contract expires on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The Council is currently engaging with carers and young people with regard to what they want from the new service. Young carers lives are shaped and influenced by the support we provide for them through the Carers Centre. The provision of young carer support should not be seen in isolation to the adult carer's provision: loneliness, isolation and often poor health affects all carers whatever their age and there are immense benefits of delivering a combined service.

The governance of Carers is overseen by the Carers Partnership Board which is carer led. Young Carers are represented by the Carers Centre with young people being consulted on specific matters such key health and social care matters such as Future Fit how to promote the service and future support.

It is an ambition of the Carers Partnership Board to challenge stigma which surrounds all carers whilst promoting carer friendly options across the Borough. In

June 2018, the Council became a Carer Friendly Employer, pledging their support to the identification and support of carers within the workplace, alongside Carer Friendly Communities. This ambition is extended into education: schools and colleges and health to ensure those who come in contact with young people are informed and able to support them to be well and safe.

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APPENDIX 1: Art work for Z leaflet: Young Carers Publicity

Front

**YOUNG CARERS**

Is there a young carer in your school or college?

**What do young carers do?**

- Shopping
- Washing
- Cleaning
- Help with medication
- Cooking
- Help with lifting
- Look after younger siblings etc..... and be a school or college student

**How do you support young carers?**

What awareness of young carers is there in your school/college?

What support and understanding do you provide?

- extra homework/revision time?

Young carers tell us having a trusted teacher who understands makes a big difference

**Some of the things young carers say about their role**

They aren't a sad story

They learn life skills through caring

Caring can bring them closer to their family

But...They need more than words

**Sources of local support for young carers**

Shropshire, Carers Trust4All 0333 323 1990, Option 1, then Option 6. or email [shropyc@carerstrust4all.org.uk](mailto:shropyc@carerstrust4all.org.uk)

Telford & Wrekin 01952 458044 or 07878 457141 Or email [info@telfordandwrekinyoungcarers.org.uk](mailto:info@telfordandwrekinyoungcarers.org.uk)

Back

**HOW CAN IT FEEL?**

**FED UP**

**I CARE**

**WHAT CAN HELP?**

**LISTEN**

**TALK**

An NHS England funded initiative

Shropshire Council

Carers Trust

Carers 4 All