



**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 5 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE**

**SUPPORTING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF CARERS IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2012-2015**  
**YOUNG CARERS: DELIVERY ACTION PLAN, PROGRESS SINCE JANUARY 2013**

**Purpose**

1. This purpose of this report is to provide an update relating to the young carers work in Leicestershire since January 2013, specifically in relation to the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Carers' Strategy and Leicestershire's Delivery Action Plan, 2012-2015 (see accompanying Action Plan, attached as Appendix 5 to this report).
2. The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to note the report. Any comments the Board wishes to make would be welcome.

**Background**

3. In order to progress the young carers agenda in Leicestershire, funding was made available through the NHS Health Transfer Fund, to support delivery and implementation of the Carers' Strategy 2012-2015. This included a Young Carers Officer post (up to 31st March 2014) to facilitate delivery against the Strategy through a multi-agency network.
4. The 2011 census data shows 166,363 young carers in England, compared to 139,000 in 2001, but this is likely to be an under-representation<sup>1</sup>. It is not yet possible to state the most recent census figures for Leicestershire as these have not been published by the ONS. Currently, approximately 132 young people are accessing young carer's services in Leicestershire, through two local providers.

**National/local political background**

5. The profile of carers and young carers have increased nationally, augmented by Census data from 2011, which highlights the 'hidden army' of young carers, including an 80% increase in the number of five to seven-year-old carers in England over the last decade.<sup>2</sup> Young carers are also identified as a vulnerable group who might benefit from early help within the 'Working Together to

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/report\\_hidden-from-view\\_young-carers\\_final.pdf](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/report_hidden-from-view_young-carers_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/report\\_hidden-from-view\\_young-carers\\_final.pdf](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/report_hidden-from-view_young-carers_final.pdf)

Safeguard Children' (March 2013) guidance to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

6. Commitments have been made on supporting young carers by Edward Timpson MP and Norman Lamb, the Care Minister, to change both the Care Bill (adults) and Children and Families Bill to improving young carers' lives, and ensuring a link on young carers between both. The National Young Carers Coalition will be working with civil servants over the summer on drafting any proposed changes.

#### **Progress to date:**

- Young Carers Project Officer appointed until March 2014.
- Establishment of a Young Carers Multi-agency Sub-Group, reporting to the Carers Project Board. This group has responsibility for delivering actions relating to the Carers Strategy. Its members also act as young carer's champions in their services/agency. Representatives on the Sub-Group include: statutory services, health commissioners and providers, schools/academies, the voluntary sector, parents and young carers.
- Task and Finish groups have been established, to explore education and health specific activities in relation to young carers, as identified in the Carers Strategy. This includes looking to establish a young carer's champion in every school and academy in the County.
- An information mapping exercise and audit of young carers and services was conducted during May-June 2013, and a report produced. Three surveys were conducted. 1) Existing young carers - to establish profiles of known young carers. 2) Services and Pathways - to seek current information held and systems of identification and referral used by services and 3) Year 10 pupils at Longslade Community College - to reveal unknown/potential young carers from a general school populous.
- Young carers are involved in all aspects of the planning and development of the plans.
- The Leicestershire Carers Charter was launched on 4th March 2013. A copy is attached as Appendix 4 to this report for information.
- The young carers section of the Leicestershire County Council website has been updated and now includes information for young carers, parents/carers and professionals (including free practitioner training resources). It will continue to be updated with new or additional information.
- Co-ordination of and involvement in Carers Week activities in June 2013. Including press campaign and roadshow events across the County to showcase progress on the Carers Strategy 2012-2015 by Leicestershire County Council and its partners.

#### **Further actions in progress - August 2013-March 2014**

7. These actions are set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

#### **Outcomes**

8. The outcomes of the work relating to young carers to date include:
  - Commitment of a range of agencies to raising the profile of young carers in their service/organisation.
  - Young carers with moderate caring responsibilities, who are not eligible for specialist intensive support from Barnardo's Carefree are now able to access one of the four Barnardo's young carers support groups run in

conjunction with Leicestershire County Council Youth Service (North West Leicestershire, Countesthorpe, Loughborough and Melton Mowbray groups), enabling more young people to benefit from peer support groups than were previously able to.

- Young carers' 'voice' is included in strategic planning of young carers services through attendance at Young Carers Multi-Agency Sub Group meetings and formal links with Young Carers Forum. For the first time this includes young carers engaged with providers outside of Leicestershire County Council's commissioning arrangements, i.e. Voluntary Action South Leicestershire's Market Harborough Young Carers Activity Group and Rutland's Young Carers Group.
- Information about young carers will be included in school nurses training courses run by DeMontfort University from January 2014, ensuring future school nurses will be enabled to identify and signpost young carers to sources of support.

### **Further outcomes expected by end of March 2014**

9. These outcomes are set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

10. The Carers' Strategy (2012-2015) is available on the Council's website which has been developed to service the largest possible audience, using the broadest range of systems and to consider any needs that users with disabilities might have.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Carers' Strategy has been written (December 2011) and considered in April 2012 by the (Adults + Communities and CYPs) Departmental Equalities Groups (DEG).

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Appendix One – Further action in progress (August 2013-March 2014)

Appendix Two - Further outcomes expected by end of March 2014

Appendix Three – Young Carers Identification Card - Young Carers ID Cards Scheme

Appendix Four – Leicestershire Carers Charter

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## **Appendices**

### **Appendix One – Further action in progress (August 2013-March 2014)**

- Co-ordination and participation in the introduction of a young carer's Identification Card Scheme, to be used by young carers when accessing health services across Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland, with the person they care for. Health sector consultation for scheme has been positive (see Appendix Three)
- Development of a Leicestershire Carers Training Strategy on delivering training around caring, to both front line staff and carers themselves.
- Planning of an awareness event on young carers for Leicestershire County Council staff in October 2013 and a multi-agency training/awareness event in February 2014, to include the launch of the Secondary Schools young carers' champions' network.
- Outcomes of information mapping/audit exercise regarding young carers to be fed into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Young carers update), Carers Delivery Implementation Plan and the development of a commissioning strategy.
- Establishing a network of secondary school young carer champions across Leicestershire.
- Development and production of publicity materials stating the local offer to young carers and their families and also publicity for use within schools, to raise awareness and encourage young people to disclose their caring activities and seek support.

**Appendix Two - Further outcomes expected by end of March 2014**

It is anticipated that the following outcomes will be achieved as the project progresses:

- Children's (and where appropriate, adults) workforce, in the county are aware of young carer's issues.
- Young carers are recognised as a discreet group (and not ignored) by agencies that they come into contact with and are supported, referred or signposted to relevant agencies, resulting in more young carers and their families, including those that are currently unknown being identified. This should reduce the impact that providing care has on them.
- An improved holistic assessment process for adults, families and young carers is conducted using a 'whole family approach' by appropriate agencies so that adults are provided with the relevant level of support, thus reducing the amount/level of inappropriate care that is given by the young carer.
- Commissioners have comprehensive information and insight of the numbers, profile and needs of young carers in Leicestershire.
- Services promoting the Carer Health and Well-being Service includes information for young carers and their families
- Young carers' health, their achievement in education, employment and training is improved.

## Appendix Three – Young Carers Identification Card - Young Carers ID Cards Scheme

The Young Carers ID Card Scheme will be introduced in partnership between Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. It is anticipated to be a 3 year project in the first instance, with year one being a 'pilot' phase.

This card will enable young people to be recognised as a 'young carer' by the healthcare professional or practitioner who is looking after their cared-for person, whenever it is produced and give permission for healthcare professionals/practitioners to share information with a young carer in pre-agreed areas. It does not give the young carer an automatic right to information but is a useful tool, so that if the professional working with the cared-for person feels it is appropriate and helpful to share the information, they could.

The four main areas where consent can be given are:

1. Medication – information about the effects that medication can have either physically or mentally, or about safe handling or anything that is relevant and will help the young carer and their family.
2. Diagnosis – information about the cared-for's condition, including general information, detail about living with/managing the condition or anything that is relevant and will help the young carer and their family.
3. Prognosis – what might happen in the future, how the condition might or might not develop, how there may be good days and bad days or anything that is relevant and will help the young carer and their family.
4. Discharge planning – include young carer in discussion about discharge of cared-for person, including, where possible, when this may happen, what plans are in place or anything that is relevant and will help the young carer and their family.



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