

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 17th JULY 2014

SUPPORTING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF CARERS IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2012-2015

YOUNG CARERS: DELIVERY ACTION PLAN, PROGRESS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2013

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Provide an update on the work in respect of young carers in Leicestershire since September 2013. A previous report was submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 5th September 2013.
 - Provide an overview of the implications for young carer services as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

Background

2. In order to progress the young carers agenda in Leicestershire, funding was made available through the NHS Health Transfer Fund to adult social care (2012/2013 and 2013/2014). This supported delivery and implementation of the Carers' Strategy 2012-2015, including a Young Carers Officer post (up to 31st March 2014). This NHS funding has now ceased. In order to progress the work, the Young Carer post was extended, via Children and Family Services funding until October 2014. After this date, the work relating to young carers will be subject to the remodelling of Early Help, which is due to be in place by April 2015. Therefore funding for the continuation of the Project is currently unsecured.
3. In May 2014, new figures from the 2011 census show the extent of the number of young carers in England. ¹Young carers, age 15 or younger in Leicestershire total 1,109. This compares to 789 in City and 60 in Rutland. Data for 15-18yr age group is not yet available. During 2013/14, 151 young carers received support locally through two providers. It is estimated that there are approximately 2000-2500 young carers in Leicestershire and Leicester City at present.

National/Local Context

4. The profile of carers and young carers continues to increase nationally, culminating in the historic amendment to the Children and Families Act 2014, which strengthens support for young carers. Regardless of who they care for, what type of care they

¹ <http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-views/our-blog/you-can-help-young-carers-near-you>

provide or how often, all young carers now have a right to a local authority assessment of their support needs. This includes regard for young carers' needs/wishes in relation to education, training, recreation or work.

5. In addition, there has been improved alignment of legislation relating to children and young people within the Care Act 2014. Both Acts refer to the 'whole family' approach to assessment of carers (young or older) and their cared-for relative and for the first time provision for the smooth transition of young carers to adult carer services is referenced.
6. Both Acts will become law in April 2015. The Care Act guidance/legislation has been released for consultation (June-August 2014) and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-of-health> Similar documentation for the Children and Families Act has not yet been made available.
7. Locally, plans are underway to align current young carer services provision, procedure and focus within both Children and Young People's Service and Adult and Communities Departments in preparation for the new statutory duties.

Progress and Outcomes - September 2013 to date

8. Significant progress has been made to improve outcomes for young carers:

a) Identification and Recognition

- The number of young people referred to Leicestershire County Council's commissioned young carer service (CareFree) for assessment increased by 50% from 44 in 2012/13 to 66 in 2013/2014, as a direct result of the Project. Referrals from Health increased from 13% to 23% during the same period. For full details of the 2013/14 young carer data provided by CareFree, please see Appendix One.
- A specific service for Young carers was re-commissioned (2014/15) to reflect the Carers Strategy and Early Help focus. Secondary and sibling carers are now eligible for services based on assessment of their need for support. (this contract is currently being re-examined in light of the Children and Families Act).
- A multi-agency training strategy is in development. To date this has included:
 - Two Multi Agency training days for staff from health, education ,and the voluntary sector March 2014 (75 attendees)
 - Since January 2014 a young carer module is included in school nurses training courses run by DeMontfort University.
- The launch of the Young Carer's Identification Card Scheme took place in March 2014, which included a short film produced by young carers, explaining how they feel about health services. This helped inspire the ID Card Scheme.
<http://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/news/salford-young-carers-film>

During April –June 2014, 16 cards have been issued, all facilitated by young carer services. An increase in applications for young carers, assisted by adult health and social care practitioners, is needed to ensure the Scheme's success. For more information see -

http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social_services/asc_support/asc_carer/asc_young_carers/young_carer/young_carer_id.htm

The LSCB has nominated this Scheme for the national Children and Young People Now Award 2014.

b) Realising and Releasing Potential

- The establishment of a school young carer 'champions network'. To date twenty schools have active 'champions'. For details of which settings are participating, please see http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social_services/asc_support/asc_carer/asc_young_carers/young_carer/young_carer_champions.htm

c) Supporting Carers to Stay Healthy

- Awareness raising of young carers issues, including support and referral pathways have been embedded into Leicestershire County Council's commissioned 'Carers Health and Wellbeing Service'.
- Questions have been designed to identify signs of young people caring have now been included in the Baseline Health Assessment Tool to be used by all School Nurses.

d) Early Intervention/ Prevention/ Information

- There has been further development and production of accessible information and resources for practitioners and young carers/families from a multi-agency perspective. This includes new young carers pages on Leicestershire County Council web site, an information booklet on support services and publicity posters – see www.leics.gov.uk/young_carer.

All materials and links, including details of the Young Carer ID Cards Scheme have been made available through the multi-agency partnership to local authority teams, Leicestershire NHS Partnership Trust, University Hospital NHS Trust, HealthWatch and both CCG's. Information has also been made available to Districts, through Staying Healthy Forums. For example, as part of GP resources in Blaby - see <http://www.blabystayinghealthy.co.uk/gp-resources>

Further Progress and Outcomes - July 2014-June 2015 (end of current Carers Strategy)

9. The priority for the work is in preparation for the incoming legislation (Care Act/Children and Families Act). In addition, responsibilities for the multi-agency young carer partnership include;
 - Input into the next Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers Strategy 2015-18. Initial plans have begun, with a view to the formation of a working party Autumn 2014.
 - Active Involvement of young carers in relation to the new Carers Strategy and any future commissioning decisions.
 - Increasing awareness and referrals to young carers services from Adult Services in both social care and health (in particular Adult Mental Health Services).

- Improvement in 'transition' for young adult carers to adult services (with a particular emphasis on further education, training and employment)

Officer to Contact

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Appendices

Appendix One - Barnardo's Results Reports Information 2014

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Numbers receiving a service in County 2010-2013	
2013 - 2014	151
2012-2013	91
2011-2012	109
2010-2011	90

New Referrals received by Barnardo's 2010-2014	
2013-2014	66
2012-2013	44
2011-2012	50
2010-2011	63

Service Users – Referral source for 2013/2014 (151 young carers in total)				
Source	%	No of young carers	Breakdown	%
Local authority Social Work Teams (children's and adults)	35%	53	Children & Families	29%
			SLF	5%
			Adult Social Care	1%
Health	23%	35	Other	7%
			Adult Practitioner	5%
			CPN	5%
			School Nurse	3%
			Health Visitor	1%
			GP	1%
Education based staff	18%	27		
Self/Family	15%	23		
Vol Sec	5%	7		
CAF	3%	5		
Other	1%	1		

2013/14 Characteristics *
Gender – 56% female, 44% male
Ethnicity – 83% White British, White Other 5%, Asian British Indian 3%, Mixed White/Asian 3% , Other 6%
Age at Referral – 11-16yrs 68% 8-10yrs 24%, under 8 6%
Referral by District – Charnwood (33%), NW Leics (29%), Harborough (12%), Blaby (11%), Hinckley and Bosworth (7%), Melton (5%), Oadby and Wigston (3%)

Illness/Disability of Care Recipients		NB 51% of cases involve parental mental ill health, 12% involve some type of substance misuse
Physical Disability	38%	
Mental Ill Health and Physical Disability	24%	
Mental Ill Health	17%	
Substance Misuse and Mental Ill Health	6%	
Learning Disability	5%	
Physical Disability and Substance Misuse	5%	
Physical and Learning Disability and Mental Ill Health	3%	
Physical Disability and Substance Misuse and Mental Ill Health	1%	

*statistics are rounded up and down and may not total 100%