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**YOUNG CARERS REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Cyndi Hughes,  
Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Catherine Whitehead,  
Assistant Chief Executive**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To report the final findings of the Young Carers Review Group undertaken by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to examine the Darlington Young Carers Action Plan and progress made towards the actions in the Plan by the new service providers.

**Summary**

2. At a meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 22 April 2013 it was agreed to establish a Young Carers Review Group. Terms of Reference were developed and approved by Scrutiny Committee and all Members of that Committee were invited to participate in the Review.
3. The Review Group has met on two occasions and a wide number of issues have been discussed and considered at those meetings.
4. It was also agreed that this Review provided an ideal opportunity for joint working with Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee and two Councillors were nominated by the Adults and Housing Scrutiny to join the Review Group.

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that Cabinet note the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.:-
  - (a) That the work of DISC since its commencement in September, 2013 as this Council's Young Carers Service be acknowledged.
  - (b) That the awareness raising with schools, and in particular with primary schools and faith schools and those schools with young people from the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (BME) be encouraged to continue.

- (c) That the 'drop in' centre at the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College be actively advertised more widely.
- (d) That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor the Young Carers Action Plan.

**Reasons**

- 6. The recommendations are supported to enable Cabinet to consider the Children and Young People Scrutiny Review recommendations.

**Catherine Whitehead  
Assistant Chief Executive**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	Increased awareness of issues surrounding young carers could have a positive impact on health and well-being of young people
Carbon Impact	There is no carbon impact in relation to this report.
Diversity	One of the recommendations in the report to raise awareness will affect the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (BME).
Wards Affected	There are no specific Wards which are affected by this report.
Groups Affected	Children and Young People.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report has no impact on the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This report does not constitute a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Markets do have an impact on the place of Darlington contributing to the overall economy, environment and Perfectly Placed priority.
Efficiency	The outcome of this report does not impact on the Council efficiency agenda.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

7. The Young Carers Review Group was established to examine the Darlington Young Carers Action Plan and the progress made towards the actions in the Plan by the new service Providers.
8. Following a tendering process DISC were identified as the new service provider for Young Carers aged under 16 years and Young Adult Carers between the age of 16-25 years and their contract commenced in September 2013.
9. A wide number of issues were discussed and considered at the meetings and Members also spoke with two young carers; the Final Report of the Group is attached (**Appendix 1**).
10. Two Members of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee were also nominated to take part in the review to encourage joint working.

### Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

### Equalities Considerations

12. There is no impact on any groups with protected characteristics as a result of the recommendations in this report.

### Director's Comments

13. I welcome this report and its findings. Young Carers are a 'hidden group' of young people, often carrying responsibilities far beyond expectations of their age. The involvement of young carers in this review has ensured they are at the centre of the discussions and recommendations.
14. The recommendations reinforce the importance of continual awareness raising and monitoring of the service and I am grateful for the vital role the Children and Young People Scrutiny has played and will continue to play in this.