
YOUNG CARERS REVIEW UPDATE

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress made in respect of the Young Carers' Action Plan 2013-16.

Summary

2. The Young Carers' Action Plan 2013 - 16 set out actions designed to improve the identification and provision of support to young carers in Darlington. Members set up a Task and Finish Group to consider this in more detail and the Final Report of the Young Carers Review Group was submitted to Cabinet in March 2015. Following this, members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee requested a further update report.
3. The review of the Young Carers' Action Plan (attached as **Appendix 1**) identifies progress in all of the outcome areas identified and particularly in relation to awareness raising in schools/schools being awarded the Young Carers' Charter (attached as **Appendix 2**). However, work in relation to young carers is ongoing and will continue to be monitored and led by the Young Carers' Strategic Partnership.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report

**Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services**

Background Papers

Young Carers' Action Plan 2013-16

Lisa Holdsworth : Extension 5861

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Well Being	Supporting young carers will help to maintain their health and wellbeing and that of the people they care for.
Carbon Impact	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	Identifying and providing support for young carers will help to mitigate potential negative impacts from their caring role. It will also support the people they care for.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	Young carers up to the age of 25.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Support for young carers contributes to the 'One Darlington' priority by narrowing the gaps for vulnerable groups of people in the Borough. This applies particularly to the 'healthy and supported' and 'educated and skilled' outcomes.
Efficiency	Both the Council and the Health Service face potential increased costs to social care and health budgets if young carers are not supported to continue to care and to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. An update of progress in respect of the Young Carers' Action Plan 2013-16 is attached as **Appendix 1**. This shows progress in all the identified outcome areas. Key achievements include:
- (a) Continued delivery of an effective and proactive young carers service in Darlington by DISC (the contracted Young Carers Service provider). 121 young carers were supported in the period from July – September 2015 and a total of 217 since the Service commenced. The support provided includes 1:1 support, group activities and carer breaks.
 - (b) Development of robust links with schools by DISC, including regular meetings with Nick Lindsay (designated lead contact for young carers), and attendance at the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership. 8 schools have signed up to the Young Carers' Charter and a further 16 schools are working towards it. It is hoped that a number of these will achieve Charter status in January/February

2016.

- (c) A student nurse will spend one day with the DISC Young Carers Service and a student doctor will take part in two x 10 week placements of one afternoon per week. This will help to raise awareness of young carers and their needs among health professionals and it is anticipated that the students will help to progress work on this within Darlington.
- (d) DISC continues to promote the service widely and to undertake awareness raising and training about young carers and their needs. It has also developed strong partnership working with a number of organisations, including Healthwatch, with regards to work with Black and Minority Ethnic communities, and with adult substance misuse and mental health services.
- (e) Young Carers continue to be identified through the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the adult social care Care and Support Needs Assessment processes. The implementation of the Care Act 2014 strengthens the requirements around the identification and assessment of young carers and whole family working.
- (f) DISC has recently been successful in a funding bid to the Big Lottery to provide a specific service for young adult carers. This will start in February 2016 for a three year period.

Outcome of Consultation

- 6. Progress against the Action Plan is monitored by the Young Carers' Strategic Partnership which meets bi-monthly and has members from a range of organisations, including statutory health and social care services and third sector organisations, including DISC Young Carers Service.
- 7. No external consultation was undertaken.