

## **Young Carers Update**

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Cabinet Member: Cllr Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member:

### **1. Operational Update – Wendy Jenner**

Overview of progress in relation to the Strategic Action Plan for Young Carers Service and the current operational performance is appended to this report.

Please see agenda item 9 - Young Carers Service Update and Young Carers Strategic Action Plan.

### **2. Clarification of future direction of travel**

In relation to Young Carers Service discussion have started around how the service might be delivered differently in the future. This led to proposals that formed part of Cabinet Papers for 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Following the Cabinet decision on the 12<sup>th</sup> to withdraw the savings proposals in relation to Young Carers (CAF - 20) of £200k, engagement events with young carers will take place over half term (last week in Oct) facilitated by the Participation Team. Adults Commissioners will work alongside the Participation team and colleagues in Childrens operations to look at opportunities for optimising young carer participation and outcomes and optimising the value proposition. A key area of focus will be to draw on the Adults experience of involving the voluntary sector in order to draw on additional resources and funding streams to deliver local solutions.

### **3. Next Steps**

Commissioners have worked closely with the Participation and Engagement Team to develop a consultation and engagement plan with young carers (irrespective of whether they are currently in receipt of support), which will be commencing week beginning 29 October 2018.

The outline of the planned engagement activities is as follows:

- 5 October 2018 - DESIGN - Meet Young Carers staff to arrange engagement events planned for 1 November
- 11 October 2018 - DESIGN - Meet Children's Commissioners and Consultation Manager, Customers and Communities to align Young Carers engagement with other consultation timescales
- 30 October 2018 - ENGAGEMENT - Focus Group event in Street and meet with ex-young carers
- 1 November 2018 - ENGAGEMENT - Young Carers Event at Worthy Farm

- W/b 5 November 2018 - ANALYSIS - Evaluate findings and forward to Commissioning to inform proposal and wider consultation
- W/b 5 November 2018 - DESIGN - Wider Children and young people's survey developed around responses at engagement event for use in groups with young people unable to attend 1 Nov event, to take to planned Young Carers groups through to end December 2018
- 13 November 2018 - DESIGN - Meet Commissioners and Consultation Manager, Customers and Communities to finalise on going children and young people's survey and align to wider open on-line consultation
- W/b 7 January 2019 ANALYSIS - Write final/follow up report in January based on on-line survey results

Somerset's Consultation Manager, Customers and Communities, has advised for the need for a broader 8-week consultation period which will take the form of an online survey which will be open from 13 November 2018.

Commissioners have attended the VCSE Strategic Forum (10 October 2018) and have further sessions planned to explore viable/sustainable options for future services and support offers for Somerset's young carers but are keen to know what it is that young people value and want to access before any design takes place.

The outcomes of any engagement will be available as part of any future service redesign.