

Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies, Children & Families Committee –  
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## Young Carers Update report

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Cabinet Member: Cllr Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: All

### Members are asked to consider and comment on this report.

**What is working well?** *What do you want to maintain and develop as it is already at or near good? What evidence do you have that this area is good? (refer to SIF Inspection framework until ILAC criteria have been clarified)*

Current case load 178 including 12 level 4 CIN cases remainder level 3. There are 15 referrals awaiting assessment. All Young Carers eligible for a service are caring for over 10-15 hours per week.

### Type of illness parent/cared for (May be more than one factor for each family)

Physical Disability parent / grandparent	101
Physical Disability sibling	56
Mental Health parent	48
Mental health sibling	26
Alcohol and Substance misuse parent	2

- Delivered Teacher training event 20/9/18 funded by public health. 42 delegates from 35 schools including infant, primary & secondary. Young People supported this event. This event focused on what schools could do to identify and support Young Carers. We currently work directly with a small number of schools to improve identification and support.
- All day Young Carers consultation event delivered on Saturday 9/6/18 in conjunction with Somerset Carers Voice and partners. 32 Young People attended. Music project provided workshops for Young People
- Partnership bid with Somerset Rural Youth Project has received a music grant to deliver a 2 year Music project with Young Carers. This will be delivered at the Young Carers respite groups.
- Health and Well Being Days delivered in Easter Break. Included provision of Well-being Bags to all Young Carers funded by Public Health. 56 Young Carers attended. Focus on mental health and wellbeing. Public health has agreed to fund the event and resources (£5k) in 2019.
- Bath and West Tickets donated and allocated
- Audits are established and regularly taking place

- Identified Lead Councillors for Young Carers. Actively involved.
- Staffing-Resignation of Grade 12 post in Taunton. Supported by 18 volunteers and 7 sessional workers.
- Summer respite programme delivered throughout the 6-week break. Activities included a residential. These activities provided 342 individual breaks to YC's and was an increase in participation of 16% compared with the 2017 programme.
- Delivering fortnightly respite Group sessions across the County, currently 10 groups operating.
- Young carers Forum meeting quarterly
- The Somerset Academy has a focus on Young Carers. The final project is yet to be decided.
- Young Carers Safeguarding Policy written
- Article featured in Loop to raise awareness
- All School Safeguarding Leads contacted with mail shot about Young Carers outlining their responsibilities.

### What are you worried about?

Proposed cuts to service

Hidden Young Carers

Carers Action Plan 2018-2020 published in preparation for Carers Strategy

Cross-government Carers Strategy & Social Care green paper due Autumn 2018

Dept for Education review of *Children in need* will include Young carers.

Lack of identification leaves many Young Carers without support often reaching our services in crisis.

Source of Referral	Total caseload	Since January 2018
Parent Family Support Advisor (PFSA)	39	13
Schools	18	10
Children and Social Care	25	5
Children with Disabilities	20	6
Camhs	4	6
Adult Mental Health	9	1
Hospital	3	2
getset	15	8
Drug & alcohol Services	0	0
GP's	3	1
Charity/other organisation	7	4
Adult Social Care	15	1
Self-referral by parent	20	15
Total of referrals	178	72

- We are not meeting the Local Authorities Statutory duties to identify Young Carers. The cross-Government strategy green paper on Carers is due in autumn. This will include focus on identification of young carers and assessment of their need to identify excessive and inappropriate levels of care.

- Restrictions in budgets within Adult Health and Social Care mean that adults generally have to meet a higher threshold of need to access services, which results in some young carers being left to undertake inappropriate levels of care.
- Slow progress on the development of a Whole Family (Think Family) approach across the authority. Changes to adult assessment to 'What matters to me' has seen no referrals since Jan. Lack of referral from GP's, Drug and Alcohol services, Adult Social Care and Adult Mental Health services. All adult assessments should identify and assess the children in the family. Young carers are entitled to a Young Carers Need Assessment. Very little evidence of this happening.
- Lack of awareness in schools and support for YC's to improve educational opportunities and outcomes.(level 2)
- Reporting is difficult as still recording on LCS and spread sheets to enable us to monitor and report
- Discussions are taking place with the CCG to enable identification of YC's from GP records.

**What needs to happen?** *Actions, timescales and any variance to previously set plans with explanation for variance*

- Increase the number of health and social care professionals to be better identifying, valuing and working with Young Carers
- Improve access to appropriate support for carers, including respite care and carers breaks
- Ensure that the needs of Young Carers are recognised in relevant local strategies.
- Continue to action the Scrutiny Action Plan.
- Adoption of the Young Carers Safeguarding Policy by Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards.
- Need to identify a lead to ensure compliance. –Children's Trust ?
- Develop E Learning module on Young carers.
- Continue joint work with Public Health to deliver training to Head Teachers as part of a wider health campaign.
- Attending a Solution focused event run by carers Voice. Part of the event will look at GP referrals
- Move to Young Carers Early Help Module
- Adult services to monitor and improve identification of Young Carers and deliver their responsibilities. Adult services to fund support for Young Carers.
- Engage in the Young Carers service consultation.

**Summary of Operational Quality Self-Assessment Findings**

**Key:** O = Outstanding; G = Good; RI = Requires Improvement; I = Inadequate

Team	Effectiveness of case allocation and workload management	Quality of practice and direct work with children and families including	Quality of performance monitoring and supervisory	Effectiveness of joint working between social care and other	Overall Conclusion (Please highlight)

	arrangements	recording	arrangements	agencies	
	All cases have up-to-date YC Needs assessment.	<p>All cases seen regularly.</p> <p>There is positive frontline practice with children and their families.</p> <p>Practitioners undertake intensive one-to-one work initially to assess. Work to reduce the burden of care and then move YP to fortnightly group support.</p> <p>We are undertaking more one-to-one work in multi-agency forums (TAC, CP)</p>	<p>Regular supervision taking place. Every 28 days.</p> <p>Regular Audits in place.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing issue.</p> <p>Local working relationships are good with CSC.</p> <p>Due the size of the team it is difficult to tackle some of the strategic issues.</p>	<p>Direct delivery by YC project good. (CSC)</p> <p>Local Authorities overall response poor</p>

Following the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting on 12 September to defer the Young Carers savings proposal (reference CAF 20) a separate overview will be provided of the work to be undertaken between now and the 11 February 2019 Cabinet meeting.