

Young Carers Service

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Cabinet Member: Cllr Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: N/A

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Adults Commissioning Team have been tasked with identifying opportunities for greater involvement of the community and voluntary sector in Young Carers support. They will work with the existing service and young carers to look at options to ensure that recommendations provide good outcomes for Young Carers and a sustainable service offer for the future. The current service model will continue while this work is undertaken so that young carers continue to receive support.
- 1.2. The report sets out how this work will be undertaken and includes a draft project plan outlining the key activities.
- 1.3. County Plan Priorities and Targets:

Somerset is a safer and healthier place where:

- Our most vulnerable people have the care they need and the choices they want.

Somerset is a place where people have the good quality services they need by:

- Giving residents a voice and acting on what they say.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. To consider and approve the proposed activities and timescales for the work.
- 2.2. To suggest any further recommendations to the activities and timescales for the work.

3. Background

- 3.1. Somerset County Council's Cabinet, took the decision on the 12th October to withdraw the savings proposals in relation to Young Carers (CAF - 20) to enable a full review of options. Cabinet requested that these options were re-presented to Cabinet in February 2019 to provide assurance that the voluntary sector has the capacity to provide support services to the standard provided by the Council and the ability to access funds which are not open to the Council. It is assumed that any future proposals will achieve a £200K saving to the Children's budget for 2019/20.

We are now exploring how the Young Carers services could be delivered

differently in the future to ensure good outcomes for young carers as well as achieving good value for money so that we can ensure the provision is fit for the future.

3.2. Adults commissioners will lead the activity with the community and voluntary sector, building on their experience of developing the adult's carers service. Critical to the commissioning activity is engagement with young carers, their families, schools, communities and carer interest groups. Our aim is to involve young carers in all aspects of the design, development and implementation of any future service redesign and we plan to set up a project board made up of young carers to do that.

3.3. A draft outline project plan is as follows:

Engagement activities with Young Carers Forum	Oct 18
Develop community options for consideration	Dec 18 – Feb 19
Further engagement activities with Young Carers Forum, families, schools, communities and carer interest groups	Dec 18 – Feb 19
Recommendations to Cabinet	February 2019

4. Consultations undertaken

4.1. To start the process, engagement events with young carers took place over half term facilitated by the Partnerships and Participation Team in Children's commissioning. We will follow this up with additional opportunities for young carers, their families, schools, communities and interest groups to have their say during November and December. Young carers will then work alongside commissioners to develop options and a recommendation for Cabinet in February 2019.

4.2. Commissioners want Young Carers themselves to drive the work and have a big influence in terms of what is recommended for the future. We aim to work with the Young Carers Forum to design the solutions for the future. The group will be supported by Commissioners to ensure that they can actively participate in the work.

5. Implications

5.1. To ensure continuity of the current service while proposals are drawn up and continue to support the young carers already in receipt of services through any possible changes in service. There may also be more young carers seeking support due to increased awareness of the support that is currently available.

5.2. Resources for the commissioning activity will be provided by the Adults commissioning team (1 FTE made up of time from Strategic Commissioner, SCO, CO) and supported by approx. 0.2FTE from Children's commissioning team. No other finances are available to support this activity.

6. Background papers

6.1. N/A

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author