

# Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Friday 26 April 2019  
10.00 am Library Meeting Room, Taunton Library



## SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA

To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Item 4	Public Question Time (Pages 3 - 4) The Chairman will allow members of the public to ask a question or make a statement about any matter on the agenda for this meeting. <b>These questions may be taken during the meeting, when the relevant agenda item is considered, at the Chairman's discretion.</b>
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Community Governance, County Hall, Taunton

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**Public Question Time**

**Agenda item 6 – Young Carers Future Service provision update**

**Sarah Baker**

The director of children’s services is proposing that a one stop shop service, is now to be provided by several voluntary sector organisations. This currently leaves the:

1. YMCA who are not able to provide any of the fortnightly youth groups for up to seven weeks.
2. YMCA have not returned calls to inform what activities will be provided on each day, or to find out if they will be doing a call to remind Young Carers of Activities and check on their well-being.
3. YMCA letters do not inform parents/guardians who is the group leader and reception staff at the YMCA were confused not knowing who to direct the supposedly direct line to the organiser.
4. No school holiday respite for the young carers and still no indication of the dates that respite will be provided in the summer holidays.
5. That the mentor and coaching needed that was managed on demand and often in small or a regular quantity missed now only be provided via an application to the promised charity who will conduct mentoring for a fact limited time. Which then leaves no provision when a Young Carer will experience a negative impact especially when NO carer can predict when will be a good or bad day.
6. Still leaves no coordinator for young people entering college of electively home educated, especially where schools or colleges have pushed students out.
7. No Young Carers counselling service has been provided for
8. No Young Carers education support service has been provided for, which is also mentioned in the children’s act 1989 s17 as amended in the children and families act 2014.
9. No Young Carers personal budgets, which was previously provided by the friends of Young Carers, again also mention in the above acts.
10. NO organisation has sent a letter to the Young Carers, previously activities and newsletters were sent to the Young Carers.
11. Assessments are still NOT happening since this council stopped the process in October 2018.
12. Team 8 staff seem to be having to spend several hours on home visits and so far time seems to be spent looking through the EHA criteria of need and parenting courses on managing the emotional needs of a Young Carer, which is often emphasised by several other failing services that are meant to support the person with a need. This has put extra unnecessary strain on families
13. The adult frame work of recognising Young Carers is not in place, especially when mental health social workers have never seen their clients!

Clearly Somerset Young Carers have been ignored from the responses given in YC's consultation 2018, Public health survey 2018, YC's consultation 2012.

Q1-Why could the DCS proposal to “maintain the level of council spend on Young Carers”, have not been presented before February / March of this year that left staff with only two weeks of insecurity or employment?

Q2-How many Young Carers have attended respite / youth groups since March 31st and how many assessments have been conducted since September 2018, also showing how many are waiting for assessments?

Q3-The GDPR form asked for parents /guardians to write down the name of organisations they DO NOT want their details shared with and exactly how many VCSE organisations will you be intending for personal information and EHA's to be shared with?

Q4-The parents questionnaire was poor and in NO way gave any ability to truly capture the voices. Have any questionnaires been sent to Young Carers, especially the ones who could not be released from caring to attend the consultation event?