
Young Carers

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 20 April 2022

Report Author: Dave Wraight

Report Sponsor: Councillor Dominic Boeck

Item for: Information



1. Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to the Board on the progress of the outstanding actions for Young Carers contained in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan.

2. Recommendation(s)

As a broad partnership to offer support to Young Carers in West Berkshire through the different agencies that make up the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. Executive Summary

The number of young carers in West Berkshire has grown steadily over the years, currently there are 183 young carers open to the service with one worker in post to complete assessments and support with activities. Additional staff capacity has been utilised from across the service area to support with the assessment of young carers. Against this backdrop the service has established innovative ways of working with young carers which was highlighted as excellent practice in our most recent Ofsted Inspection in March 2022. The recruitment of an apprentice for the Young Carers Activity Coordinator post was delayed due to a wider recruitment freeze. This post has now been advertised and generated two shortlisted applicants, with interviews scheduled for April 2023.

4. Supporting Information

Updates on actions from the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan:

4.1 *Action 2.3.2 Embedding new process for online referrals of Young carers and ensuring all partners are aware. – action complete and business as usual.*

Most referrals relating to young carers are completed online and advertised on the West Berkshire Council website and West Berkshire Directory. There is an additional option to refer via the CAAS/Early Response Hub who automatically generate a Young Carer referral form. It is recognised that schools are excellently placed to identify young carers therefore the Young Carers worker has a training slot at the schools Designated Safeguarding Leads forum and provides an overview of the role and outlines the referral process at those forum.

4.2 *Action 2.3.3 Raise awareness of young carers, Engagement with partner agencies, Advice and information sessions with schools, Young carers groups at schools, Re-establish young carers champions – action partially complete and ongoing*

The promotion and awareness raising of young carers has continued, using some of the different multi agency forums that exist to promote awareness of young carers and highlight how to refer young carers. There is ongoing engagement with schools through training and attendance at education events. The reestablishment of the Young Carer champions has been delayed due to capacity challenges but can be progressed when the apprentice Young Carers Activity Coordinator is in post.

4.3 *Action 2.4.3 Using the young carers dashboard to continuously review engagement with services and outreach to new attendees. – action complete and business as usual*

The young carers dashboard is a tool utilised to monitor the progress of both new contacts received and young carer assessments. This brings assurance that there is no drift and delay and enables monitoring of the support young carers are engaged with to determine the appropriate support for the individual child/young person.

4.4 *Action 2.4.4 Use feedback from young carers to inform and expand the activities on offer – action refined and ongoing*

Feedback is collated from young carers directly during each of the sessions. The information gathered is utilised to inform the development of future sessions so that activities and group work is tailored to the young people's age and stage of development. The apprentice young carer activity coordinator will have a pivotal role in further developing the feedback process and the way that their participation and engagement is developed. We will use a model of co-production with young carers in enhancing the development of a process for gathering and utilising feedback.

4.5 *Action 2.4.5 Recruit volunteers to one to one mentoring role to work with young carers with particular challenges – action is delayed until recruitment*

Work to develop this role has been hindered due to limited capacity. Once the apprentice Young Carers Activity Coordinator is in post this work will progress via the young carers' worker. As an interim measure, work has been completed to ensure young carers have access to adults who can bring positive influences and offer guidance. An example of this is the utilisation of the Early Response Hub Youth worker. He now attends the young carers' primary group and other clubs.

5. Options Considered

Not applicable

6. Proposal(s)

The actions outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Board action plan are either complete or will be progressed following the appointment of the apprentice Young Carers Activity Coordinator. The actions are being monitored internally through the service development plan therefore it is proposed that the HWBB close off the Young Carer actions delegating them back to the service to progress.

7. Conclusion(s)

The Young Carers offer is now well established and has grown and developed with practices that were highlighted by Ofsted as excellent in meeting the needs of this vulnerable group and recognised the positive impact the work had on this group of children. The Children and Family Service will continue to support young carers in the future.

8. Appendices

None

Background Papers:

Minutes of Health and Wellbeing Board, 23 February 2023.

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities: The young carers project has helped a significant number of young carers of all ages, supporting them with opportunities to develop peer relationships and providing a safe space to meet, talk and enjoy activities that impact positively on their emotional wellbeing.
