

Report of the Director of Children's Services to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 27th September 2017

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Subject: Young Carers

Summary statement:

This report provides an annual update on plans to meet the needs of Young Carers, within the Bradford District, following the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding 2010, refreshed in Feb 2014, and previous annual reports presented.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the needs of Young Carers following the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014, Care Act 2014 and the Local Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 2010, refreshed 2014. It updates the previous annual report presented on the 26th July 2016.
- 1.2 A Young Carers Service is a commissioned service in relation to the Council's statutory duty to provide an assessment for Young Carers and this report demonstrates the effectiveness of this service. The current provider is Barnardo's.
- 1.3 Progress has been made with Adult Services via the 'care pathway' with Bradford District Care Foundation Trust, GPs and Primary and Secondary Schools.

2. Background

- 2.1 The 2010 Local Memorandum of Understanding (discussed previously) has been updated to include the good practise detailed within the paper 'No wrong doors' April 2015.
- 2.2 The Memorandum is a clear Joint Statement of Intent and Vision stating that;

“Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive; to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve their full potential and fulfils the duty to participate as laid out in the Raising Participation Age duty.”

- 2.3 The Children and Families Act 2014 states that “young carer” means:
'A person under 18 years of age who carries out caring tasks and assumes a level of responsibility for another person which would normally be carried out by an adult'

This is taken to include children and young people under 18 who provide regular and on-going care to a family member usually because that family member has significant unmet care needs arising from disabilities, mental health needs or substance misuse. That care can involve:

- Emotional support -
- Taking responsibility – giving medication, looking after siblings, paying bills
- Physical Care - personal care, helping someone to dress or move around, cooking, cleaning

The term Young Carer does not apply to the everyday and occasional help around the home that may often be expected of or given by children in a family. A Young Carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for the child.

- 2.4 The Vision's overriding priority is prevention, ensuring Young Carers are actively protected from excessive or inappropriate caring and parenting roles are supported. The Memorandum also supports the new duties placed on Authorities via the

Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014.

- 2.5 It was agreed in July 2014 that the monitoring and oversight of the Memorandum of Understanding would be undertaken by the Children's Trust Board with annual reports to Children's Overview and Scrutiny and Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny for information.

3. Report issues

- 3.1 Work has been undertaken with a wider partnership, as detailed in the last report July 2016, to help identify and support Young Carers across the District.
- 3.2 Training on Young Carers has been delivered at GP Events and information has been distributed across GP practices. Referrals directly from GPs still only account for less than 1% of referrals to the service. This is disappointing as G.P.'s will have the information about the adults who need caring for and will know whether that household has a child/young person.
- 3.3 The Service for Young Carers hoped that G.P.'s would be able to flag families on their database System One, so that we can ensure that the right young people are getting support at the right time. The service will continue to work with CCG's and school nurses to enlighten G.P.'s to the benefits of the Young Carers Service. The Service would hope to see that the number of referrals from school nurses reflects the engagement of the G.P.'s.
- 3.4 Work with primary schools is underway with good results. In the first phase 109 primary schools now have a named member of staff for Young Carers and 40 primary schools have received training. Plans are in place to seek to ensure 100% of primary schools have a Young Carers lead and have received training.
- 3.5 The Young Carers Service has previously engaged, with support from Overview and Scrutiny, Governors from secondary schools, at this moment in time the primary schools are working well with the Service but Governors of primary schools will be offered training and 'awareness raising' of Young Carers.
- 3.6 The links between Young Carers Service and the Adult Services commissioned Carers Resource have worked well to provide older young carers a good transition to adult services, should they wish this support to continue. External funding to support this work through Carers Resource has now ended but the pathway that has been established will ensure Young Carers who transition to adults will be provided with a 'handover' to adult services should they need this.
- 3.7 There has been an increase in the referrals from Adults Services at Bradford District Care Trust as a result of the Young Carers Pathway that was introduced. Development of an equivalent pathway is now taking place with Adult Social Care.
- 3.8 The Memorandum of Understanding is currently being refreshed and we will then seek to agree for a further three years between Children's Services, Adult Services and Health partners.
- 3.7 As part of the implementation of required budget reductions in Children's Services,

the service for Young Carers received a 10% reduction in funding for 2017/18. Despite this the service continues to perform well against outcome targets and delivery expectations. In 2016/17 the numbers worked with exceeded expectations and good outcomes for young carers were delivered. (See Appendix 1)

- 3.8 The service for Young Carers will be subject to a review and new commissioning process from April 2018.

4. Options

There are no options for consideration presented as this is a statutory duty for the Council and its partners and part of the annual programme of work for the scrutiny committee.

5. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

The work undertaken by the providers and partners in relation to Young Carers, contributes to the Council priorities by ensuring: Young Carers are safe; that they are supported to achieve the best outcomes they can in relation to their education; and their emotional well being is monitored with support offered as and when needed.

6. Recommendations

To comment on the service provision.

7. Background Documents

Young Carers Memorandum of Understanding 2017

8. Not for Publication documents

None

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Bradford Young Carers Service Update August 2017.