

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny to be held on 13th February 2019

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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, including the recent re-tender of the service. The work of the Young Carers service is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding 2010, refreshed in Feb 2014, and 2017 and a Framework of Good Practice.

Previous reports have been presented, the last one was in September 2017.

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Portfolio:

Children & Families

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 and 2017. It updates the previous annual reports presented on the 26th July 2016 and 27th September 2017.
- 1.2 The Young Carers Service is a commissioned service which meets the Council's statutory duty to provide an assessment for Young Carers, as well as providing other resources following assessment. The current provider is **Barnardo's**, however, this service contract has been rolled over for a number of years and needed to be reviewed and the service re-tendered for 2019.
- 1.3 The **Carers Resource** has been successful in gaining the new tender and throughout January, February and March there will be a period of mobilisation until the new service commences on the 1st April 2019.
- 1.4 The new service will be jointly commissioned with our CCG commissioners to ensure value for money and service quality. Papers have been presented at ECB (Health's Executive Commissioning Board) in October 2018 and TIG (Children & Young People's Transformation and Integration Group) in May 2018.
- 1.5 A Framework for Good Practice (Appendix 1) has been introduced throughout 2018 as a 'working document' to deliver on identified areas of weakness and to cover NDTI (National Development Team for Inclusion) standards for Young Carers. The members, in previous years at Overview and Scrutiny, were keen not to have a continued RAG rated document that demonstrated positive outcomes and wanted a clear picture of any difficulties so that they could be as supportive and challenging as necessary.
- 1.6 A report has been provided by Barnardos on the year's activity 2017/18 (Appendix 2)
- 1.7 Young Carers will be an integral part of the revised Adult Carers Strategy due June 2019 but will retain its own Memorandum of Understanding and Framework of Good Practice.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The 2010 Local Memorandum of Understanding (previously shared with Children's Overview & Scrutiny) 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

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Barnardo’s are currently commissioned separately by the Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to deliver a single service for young carers. Both the Council funding and CCG funding for the Young Carers Service has been renewed on an annual basis for a number of years without having been through a procurement process.

A competitive tendering process has taken place to ensure that the contract is compliant with the Councils Contract Standing Orders and is in accordance with the principles of public procurement within EU and national legislation. The tender process has also:

- Considered the current commissioning arrangements and commissioned services in the district.
- Established through a desktop exercise, national and local guidance, policy and research around delivery of young carers services.

- Provided consultation and stakeholder engagement.
 - Outlining options for the future delivery and commissioning of services for Young Carers.
- 3.2 To contribute to the re-commissioning a stakeholder event was held on 11th September 2018 and a stakeholder survey was widely circulated through health, council and voluntary organisations. An online survey was sent to all schools, health and voluntary organisations to share with children and young people who consider themselves young carers and a consultation event was held with young carers at Lazer Quest on the 20th August 2018.
- 3.3 The Carers Resource has been successful in gaining the new tender and there will follow a period of mobilisation until the new service commences on the 1st April 2019.
- 3.4 A report has been provided by Barnardos for 2017/2018. (Appendix 2)
- 3.5 The new service will be jointly commissioned with our CCGs commissioners to ensure value for money and service quality. Papers have been presented at ECB (Executive Commissioning Board) in October 2018 and TIG (Children & Young People's Transformation and Integration Group) in May 2018, which have been received well. The CCGs have been heavily involved in the re-procurement of the service for young carers, ensuring that key elements around health have been integral to decision-making and planning for the new service that will be provided. This covers elements around young carers themselves, for instance, supporting them to make healthy life choices and also around health services in terms of awareness raising and identification.
- 3.6 The joint commissioning of this service provides an opportunity for greater joint working at a local level, in line with intentions to move towards a more integrated health and social care system. The benefits include streamlining of contracting, reporting and monitoring arrangements and delivery of shared objectives and plans that meet the needs of young carers. It is felt that combining resources is the most effective use and promotes a consistent and equitable service.
- 3.7 The Young Carers service has been presented to Overview and Scrutiny since 2014 to discuss progress and to hear the views of the young people that use the service. At the last Overview and Scrutiny (Sept 2017) there were concerns raised about GP practices not acknowledging Young Carers and not enough being done to support the identification of Young Carers. Since this was raised there has been activity within health services that has proved very promising in relation to joint commissioning and a flagging system within System One to help identify Young Carers to School Nurses.
- 3.8 Development work has been undertaken which now gives primary care professionals the ability to flag young carers on SystemOne which will apply a Patient Status alert on the front page of their SystemOne record to alert primary

care professionals that the young person is a young carer which may impact on the care and support offered to them. Promotional communications of Best Practice Guidance in primary care on the importance of identification of young carers will be launched in February. Developed with input from safeguarding experts, partner organisations are asked to adopt the best practice within their service. The intention is to launch this guidance alongside a campaign to increase visibility of young carers in primary care through robust use of the practice register of carers, linking to any other child or young person in the household.

- 3.9 The Young Carers service has worked well with all schools ensuring that a Young Carers lead is in every secondary school and will be in every primary school by the end of 2019.
- 3.10 The Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed throughout 2019 with our contracted service, Health and Adult services colleagues and this will be agreed for a further three years. This will include longer term planning to further embed the consideration of the need to identify and support young carers as everyday practice. This will take place within primary care services for adults through inclusion of relevant questions around caring support in both long term condition and mental health annual reviews, as a routine element of the review and as standard at the point of discharge from an acute setting.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

The funding resource implications for partners are as follows;

- City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council - £151,236
- Combined Clinical Commissioning Groups - £53,323

The annual contract value will be £204,559 per annum and we will procure for a 3 year contract 2019/20 to 2021/22 with the option to extend by one year and one further year.

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. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

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. LEGAL APPRAISAL

None.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

None.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None .

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

7.6 TRADE UNION

None.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The service is District Wide.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

None

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

This was considered in the tendering process.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Overview and Scrutiny to receive the report for information, note the progress and support continued development in the jointly commissioned service.
- 10.2 That reports continue to be received from the service.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Framework of Good Practice.
Appendix 2 - Report from Barnardos.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Overview and Scrutiny Report September 2017.