

## Information for Overview and Scrutiny

### Awareness Raising:

- We have been in contact with all primary and secondary schools in the district introducing our service and encouraging Young Carers Champions to identify young carers for our summer activity programme
- We have launched an e-learning package for professionals to learn how to identify and support young carers. This has been personalised with information relevant to Bradford District and registration is automatic for anyone with a @bradford.gov.uk email address
- New leaflets and posters have been designed and printed using the “Do I Look Like I Care” slogan created by young carers in our service in Harrogate and Craven
- We have created a Bradford Young Carers page on our website [www.youngcarersresource.org](http://www.youngcarersresource.org) and we are working on refreshing the site itself to be more dynamic and useful for supporting young carers. The site since April 1st has had over 4000 views. The BYC page alone has had around 750 views. The top search term causing people to land on the site since April has been ‘bradford young carers’
- A much simplified referral form has been created for families to complete themselves (with support from a professional if requires). The referral form has been made available to download from our website to increase access to the service.

### Service Delivery:

- In quarter 1 we had supported 146 young carers in the district. However there were still 61 young carers who had already been referred weeks or months before our contract commenced, who were waiting for a service.
- We secured £50,000 additional funding for a summer activities programme. This enabled us to offer activities to all the young carers we were working with, those on the waiting list, and any more that schools could identify to us before the end of the summer term. We also used social media to prompt families to refer themselves so they could join in. Overall we delivered 546 places on weekly groups and trips, including 2 residentials and 2 family trips. It was great to see more and more engagement as the summer wore on, with the weekly arts/gaming group growing from 12 to 22 attendees.

- Transitioning existing cases to Carers' Resource has gone well and the new model of working has been positively received by the young carers already in the service, especially the option to stay at 'green' level and not have to have their case closed.
- We have established a youth club group in Shipley. We are using this as a pilot to gain essential feedback so that young carers' opinions shape the further 7 planned groups this autumn. By December 2019 there will be one club per week in each family hub area, one week for under 11's and the next for over 11's
- Work with young carers committee continues to go well. They have contributed to raising the profile of young carers via BCB radio show.
- A transition group for young carers met during the schools summer holidays to support carers moving from primary to secondary school
- Two young carers have done interviews on local radio
- Workers continue to support young carers with safeguarding issues that could inhibit their social and emotional development. In this period workers have attended multi agency meetings regarding family and child welfare including LAC initial conference [for 1 young carer]; CP core groups [for 13 young carers]; CP reviews [for 6 young carers]; TAF meetings [for 8 service users]. Therefore we have continued to support service users who have been transferred from Barnardo's services and continue to demonstrate working using signs of safety.
- Working in an organisation which also offers support to adult carers has meant that we can easily get the right information and advice for the parents of young carers, ensuring that families can access support and benefits to which they are entitled. It also means that while support for carers may change at age 18, it does not stop entirely, despite there being no dedicated Young Adult Carer service. There are also a growing number of internal referrals as staff working with adults identify young carers in the family

### **Staffing:**

- There were two vacancies and a maternity cover which all needed to be filled. Having only two staff at the start of the contract did limit the number of young carers we could support then. However, we have now successfully appointed to all three roles. We have also released some of our own funds to employ a worker whose main role is to strengthen the online support we offer and support the 8 youth clubs around the district. We also employed 4 sessional workers to assist with the busy summer activity programme. Young carers from the project were part of the interviewing process and involved in the decision making.
- A new intern in the organisation will be supporting the young carers with their radio programme, thus giving this a new impetus
- We have recently appointed a Head of Development for the Young Carers and Families service so that there is someone at the top level of our organisation responsible for the

quality of the delivery, and who has the ability to identify and respond to new opportunities for young carers and their families

**Feedback:**

- To us the most important positive feedback has been the reaction of the pre-existing young carers to our new model of working with the three levels of support.
- We are collating some fantastic feedback from young carers and families about the impact of the summer activities programme. E.g. from a parent - "I was so nervous about getting support from BYC before this Summer, however I realised very quickly that the support we received was incredible and the staff were brilliant all the way through the summer. Thank you so much for looking after my Son and giving him a fun filled Summer"

**Plans for the Autumn:**

- All staff will be inducted into their roles and into their family hub area
- Stronger links made between family hub area workers and key schools in their areas. Schools to be offered assemblies about young carers
- Non-responding schools contacted again and encouraged to identify Young Carer Champions
- Clubs for young carers set up in all family hub areas
- Working with Bradford University including supporting a careers event and delivering teaching sessions about young carers
- Working with Children's Society to co-deliver a half-day teaching event for professionals on identifying hidden young carers.
- E-learning package for professionals will be marketed more widely
- Local fundraising efforts to continue, also raising community awareness of young carers

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