

## Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

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**Subject:** AA

Young Carers

### Summary statement:

This report provides a requested update on the progress being made against the Key Performance Indicators and the new model for providing support to young people in the Bradford District who are known as Young Carers.

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 Carers Resource was successful in gaining the new tender from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

Previous reports have been presented; the last one was on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and should have been presented on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 but cancelled due to Covid 19. The impact on the service provision because of Covid 19 will be noted.

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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. It updates the previous annual reports presented on the 26th July 2016 and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019.
- 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.
- 1.3 The **Carers Resource** was successful in being awarded the contract for delivering the Young Carers Service in Bradford and the details contained in **Appendix 1** summaries the work done to against the Key Performance Indicators in Quarter 4 and some graphical representations of the annual data from Annex 1 reporting schedule.
- 1.4 The new service provided by Carers Resource is jointly commissioned with our CCG commissioners to ensure value for money and service quality. Quarter 1 (April to June) of this year has been difficult due to Covid – **Appendix 3** is a report from Carers Resource on Quarter 1.
- 1.5 Young Carers is an integral part of the revised Adult Carers Strategy to ensure a whole family approach is adopted to provide support to families and seamless transitions. This work is currently being developed into a strategy and action plan that will be from 2019 – 2024, it is currently in draft.
- 1.6 The model of workflow through the Young Carers Service is shown in **Appendix 2**

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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

- 2.2 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.

- 2.3 The Joint Statement of Intent and Vision below will be included within the Adult and Children's strategy for Carers.

*"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."*

- 2.4 The Vision's overriding priority is prevention, ensuring Young Carers are actively protected from excessive or inappropriate caring and parenting roles are supported.

### 3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 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.

- 3.2 The longer term planning for Young Carers is to further embed the consideration of the need to identify and support young carers as everyday practice. This will also 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.

- 3.3 The service will continue to be monitored and audited quarterly as part of the commissioning service, as shown in **Appendix 1** taken from the reporting schedule Annex 1.

- 3.5 Young Carers and Children's Services supported the Children's Society to do an event in relation to Hidden Young Carers on the 13<sup>th</sup> January this year, as there are still young people who do not know they can be supported with their caring responsibilities. The pledges made at this event were kept with the Children's Society due to Covid 19 but will be released to individuals to coincide with the new school term 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Pledges included completing e learning and sharing this knowledge with colleagues and partners to raise awareness of Young Carers, which has to date been slow.

- 3.6 Nationally this year there is a Carers' Trust initiative called 'Count me In Campaign' which was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> January to raise awareness of Young Carers in the region. There is info and resources via their website; <https://carers.org/young-carers-awareness-day-2020-resources> should you wish to see more information in relation to this initiative or for a more detailed briefing, please contact Carers Trust:

[policy@carers.org](mailto:policy@carers.org) or 0300 772 9600.

3.7 The Initiative asked for members to:

- *Ask local schools/colleges if they recognise young carers as a vulnerable group of learners, what they are doing to identify them, and how they are getting them the help they need.*
- *Ensure our local authority delivers young carers' rights – is it counting the number of young carers given formal assessments and support?*
- *Post on social media or write a blog post for our website about Young carers.*

*The initiative is also*

- *Tabling a Parliamentary Question asking the Government to:*
  - *Collect and publish information about the attendance, school achievement and wellbeing of young carers.*
  - *Make sure councils have the money they need to be able to do what the law says.*

3.8 The NHS West Yorkshire and Harrogate unpaid carers programme raised awareness of young carers through lots of different social media on the 30<sup>th</sup> January as part of Young Carers Awareness day.

3.9 This year Carers week was the 8-14<sup>th</sup> June, due to Covid 19 creativity was at its highest and events were held virtually, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. Some of the activities were pre-recorded, some were live and some were interactive. Young Carers were encouraged to enter a 'Bake off' and photographs of the finished products were judged by the Deputy Director of Children's Services Irfan Alam.

3.10 Throughout Covid 19 and lockdown there has had to be a different way established of working with Young Carers. Carers Resource has worked hard to ensure that all of the children have been supported. Difficulties included: No services to sign post Young Carers onto; a loss of contact with some Young Carers due to changes in address and circumstances through Covid 19 lockdown; Young carers and families stating they could manage due to children and young people not having to go to school so their caring role could be spread out during the day. Detailed in **Appendix 3**

3.11 Officers and Carers Resource are also minded of the safeguarding issues around Young Carers and how difficult it will be for some Young Carers to get back to a school routine. Pressure from parents and others to continue to do a caring role, caring for shielding others and returning to school will cause stress and anxiety for Young Carers. In order to support Young Carers with this Carers Resources have gained an additional 31K to support young carers in going back into education. Carers Resource will be concentrating hard through the summer to re-engage and ready Young Carers for September school returns.

3.12 Officers and Carers Resources continue to work with other agencies to ensure the voice of Young Carers are heard. A Consultation pack has been designed by the Children's Society for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers to help establish

'What a day in my life has been like during Covid' and any feelings around loneliness. The results of this survey will be shared with us so that we can plan services to continue to be supportive and safe.

#### **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 have procured 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 Overview and Scrutiny to receive this paper for information, note the progress and support continued development in our jointly commissioned service.

10.2 To continue to receive annual reports from the service and that these are scheduled annually for June, to give the service time to report on a full year of activity.

**11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Key performance Indicators Jan – March 2020

Appendix 2 – Workflow model

Appendix 3 – Report on Quarter 1 through Covid.

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Overview and Scrutiny Report 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

-7-