Young Carers and the School Census

@YCAlliance





So many young carers feel unseen and unheard at school. I believe that having a Young Carer Champion, a teacher each young carer knows is in their corner would increase their confidence and wellbeing hugely.











Welcome and housekeeping

- * Ensure microphones are on mute
- Slides will be shared after the event along with links to resources mentioned (www.caringtogether.org/schoolcensus)
- Put any questions to speakers in the chat
- Any unanswered questions will be followed up after the event
- Twitter @YCAlliance







Young Carers: School Census 2023

Andrew Baxter

Head of Children In Need (CIN) Outcomes Policy Unit

Outcomes, Care Leavers & Capital Division

Children's Social Care Strategy & Care System Directorate

Families Group

Department for Education

Young carers: what we currently know

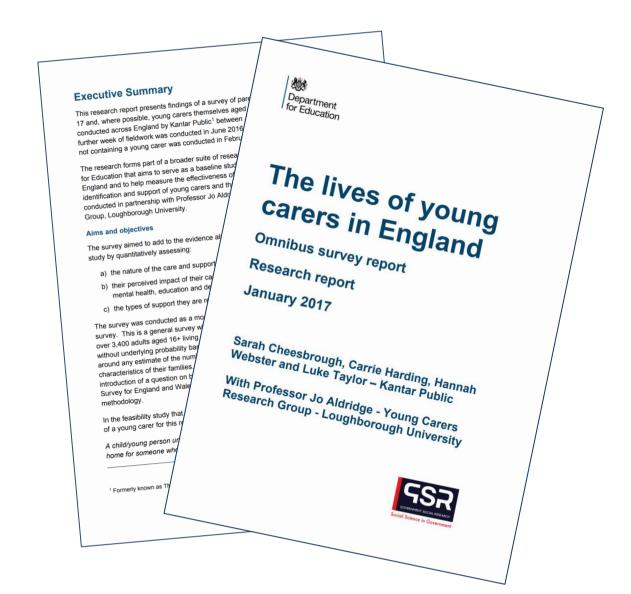
Current figures of young carers in England & Wales:

- 166,000 [National Census, 2011]
- ~800,000 [The Children's Society, 2020]
- 18,110 [Characteristics of Children in Need, 2022]

The Department previously commissioned researchers from Loughborough University and Kantar to explore the lives of young carers:

- 420 households were found to contain at least one young carer between the ages of 5 and 17, from a larger sample of 79,629.
- 10% of respondents reported receiving support from their school
- Nearly 66% were not receiving any support.

The lives of young carers in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Young carers: what we currently know (continued)

Characteristics of children in need, Reporting Year 2022 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

| End Assessment Factors* | Number of recordings | | |
|--|------------------------|--|--|
| Young carer | 18,110 <i>(2.8%)</i> | | |
| Learning disability: Concerns about a parent / other person | 20,080 (3.1%) | | |
| Physical disability or illness: concerns about a parent / other person | 29,650 <i>(4.5%)</i> | | |
| Mental health: concerns about a parent / other person | 181,310 <i>(28.1%)</i> | | |
| Alcohol misuse: concerns about a parent / other person | 82,220 (12.7%) | | |
| Drug misuse: concerns about a parent / other person | 83,540 <i>(12.9%)</i> | | |
| Total LA assessments completed in 2022 | 645,070 | | |

Source: Annual Characteristics of Children In Need/CIN Census 2022

^{*} Please note that multiple factors as well as a primary need are recorded at the end of each assessment performed by a Social Worker.

School Census: The Young Carer Indicator

The new indicator means for the first time there will be an official count of the number of young carers in educational settings across England.

• Complete the school census - Data items 2022 to 2023 - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) [Codeset CS118]

| Code | Young carer indicator |
|------|---|
| N | Not declared |
| P | Identified as a young carer by parent or guardian |
| S | Identified as a young carer by school – including where the pupil self declares |

Key guidance:

- Keeping children safe in education GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Working together to safeguard children GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Usage and publication of the data

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality

- DfE official statistics: standards and policies GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Complete the school census Statutory requirement, data sharing and regulations Guidance GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Publication will be via the Explore Education Statistics service on GOV.UK

• Explore our statistics and data – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Initially publication will include:

- National, Regional and Local Authority breakdowns (with constituencies to be confirmed.)
- School Type (e.g. state-funded primary, secondary and special schools)

Next Steps & Indicative Timeline

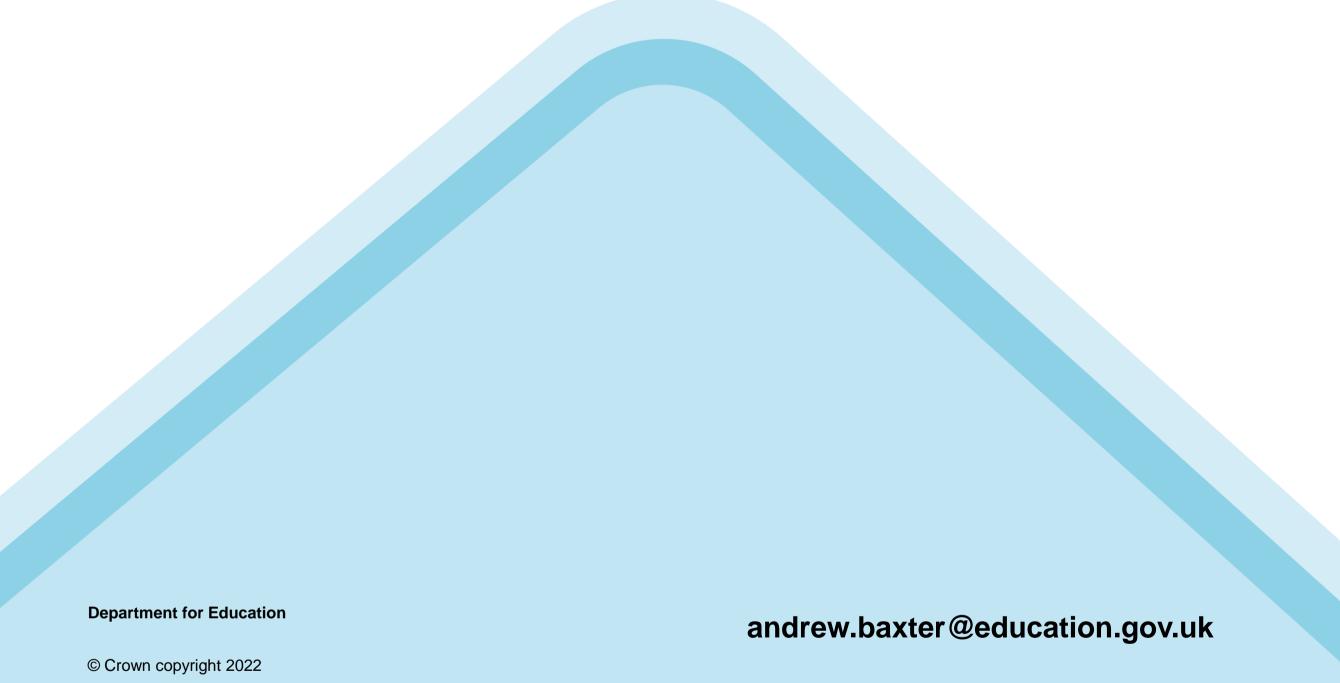


Figures will be publicly available via Explore Education Statistics:

• Explore our statistics and data – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Organisations are able to apply for wider access to datasets, further information available here:

• DfE data sharing service application form guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)



What schools can do to ensure they are identifying and supporting young carers

- Whole-school approach
- Awareness-raising (staff, pupils and parents) considering groups of young carers often missed How you ask the question is key
- Systems and processes just as important as on-the-ground support











Young Carers in Schools

• Laura Bennett, Head of Policy and External Affairs, Carers Trust

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Carers Trust

- Carers Trust is a major charity for, with and about carers.
- We work to improve support, services and recognition for anyone living with the challenges of caring, unpaid, for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. Our vision is that unpaid carers count and can access the help they need to live their lives.
- The Carers Trust Network is the leading, and largest, provider of comprehensive, frontline, face to face and online carer services in the UK.
- With our 121 Network Partners, we reached over 850,000 unpaid carers and supported 429,000, including 54,000 young carers and young adult carers in 2020/21. Our network also includes services providing homecare in England and Wales.



Young Carers in Schools

- Partnership programme with The Children's Society: https://youngcarersinschools.com/
- Gain national recognition for raising outcomes for young carers through the Young Carers in Schools Award (England-only).
- Identify manageable steps to improve educational outcomes for this vulnerable pupil group – the programme breaks down the actions schools can take so that your school can prioritise what to do next.
- Step by step guide. https://carers.org/resources/all-resources/15- supporting-young-carers-in-schools-a-step-by-step-guide-for-leadersteachers-and-non-teaching-staff-
- Access additional support including tools, templates and good practice examples, webinars and professional development events.

Supporting Young Carers in Schools: A Step-by-step Guide for Leaders. Teachers and Non-teaching Staff







© Carers Trust



Young Carers in Schools and school census data

- Once schools identify young carers and young adult carers, we hope that they can use data from the school census to make that offer of support from the school to young carers.
- Schools only need to do the education part, working in partnership with their local NHS, local council and local carers services to deliver wrapround, holistic, support.
- Young Carers in Schools can help schools do the education part.





Support for young carers

- Young carers and their families are entitled by law to an assessment of their needs, and to support if the assessment shows this is needed - This will either prevent young carers from needing to undertake caring responsibilities at all, or avoiding young carers taking on excessive or inappropriate caring responsibilities.
 - Support could include young carers with commissioned breaks and time outside of caring, including through local carers support services, and providing family members have been given more support to prevent a young carer from caring.
- We hope in time that the attainment and attendance data will show for young carers and young adult carers, and their future life chances, including their future education and employment.





Any questions?

Please email us lbennett@carers.org







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Young Carers in Schools The Award









Luella Goold – Service Manager The Children's Society

Young Carers in Schools The Award









Young
Carers
themselves
consistently
shared the
same issues



distilled into
5 clear
areas of
need



which in turn
were to be
met through
what
became 5
standards of
practice

Young Carer Informed: The Five Pillars

Understa

Inform

Identify

Listen

Support



UNDERSTAND:

- Appoint a Young Carer SLT lead and Operational lead.
 Responsible for understanding and addressing young carer needs.
- Let pupils, families and staff know about the support in school for young carers and who to contact on the noticeboards and website.

Standard One – Understand





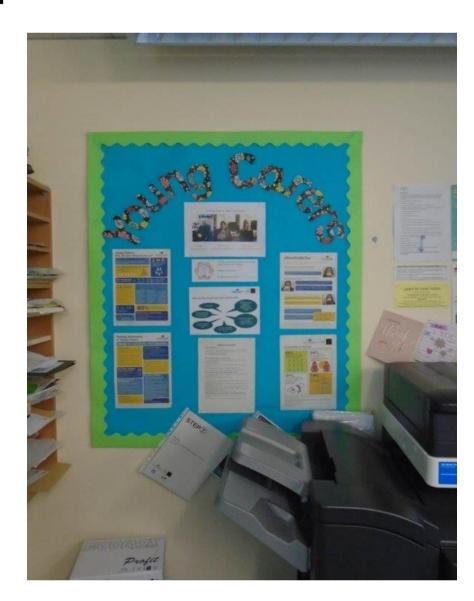
INFORM:

- Having an informative webpage specifically for young carers shows the schools commitment to whole school working
- Staff noticeboard endorsed by SLT with their contact details
- Copy of agenda/minutes from a recent governors meeting to show that young carer issues and the school's support have been discussed

Standard 2 – Inform



Screenshot of webpage showing Tab with Young Carers



Staff noticeboard

Standard 2 – Inform

Dear governors

Meeting the needs of young carers at [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL]: Information for governors

At [name of school] we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers – children under 18 who are caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. Young carers are a vulnerable and disadvantaged group who frequently experience difficulties in their education as a result of their caring role. They are specifically mentioned in Ofsted's evaluation inspection schedule and are often eligible for free school meals and Pupil Premium Funding.

Identifying and supporting pupils with caring responsibilities is a low cost and effective way of improving the attainment of this often low achieving pupil group. We are therefore keen to ensure that our governors have the information and resources they need to consider the needs of young carers as part of their evaluation of the school's provision and how well it meets the needs of our pupils.

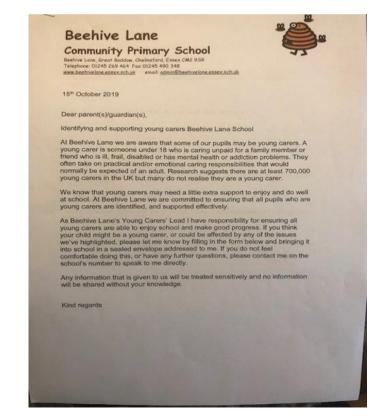
As part of the Young Carers in Schools programme, a national initiative to equip schools and award effective practice, Carers Trust and The Children's Society have produced specific resources for governors. Relevant resources are enclosed and include:

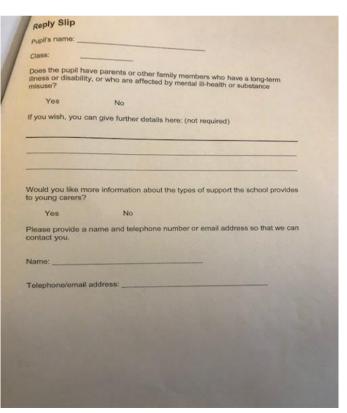
- Key information about young carers and the potential impact a caring role can have on a pupil's academic achievement, attendance and wellbeing.
- The roles and responsibilities of the governing body in ensuring effective provision for young carers.
- Frequently asked questions for school governors and senior leadership teams.
 A checklist to support governing bodies in evaluating the effectiveness of their
- Further information about the Young Carers in Schools programme.

We recommend that governors schedule an agenda item to discuss their school's support for young carers. We encourage the governing body to consider appointing a lead governor with this remit and to agree how the governing body will carry out its responsibilities in relation to young carers.

The school has/intends to appoint a Young Carers' School Operational Lead who will carry out a baseline review of the school's current provision for young carers and their families. We will provide a summary of this review and relevant recommendations prior to your discussion.

Yours faithfully





Letter to Governors to raise awareness of young carers at a meeting

Whole School commitment evidenced by letter home expressing School commitment to Young Carers with reply slip.

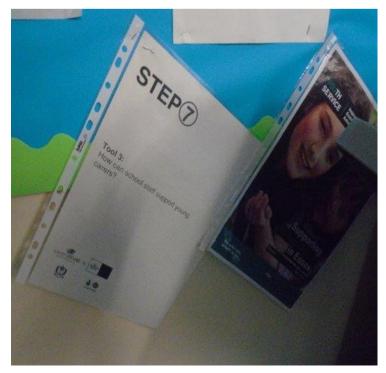


IDENTIFY:

- Have an informative and comprehensive range of posters showing the impacts, identification and who to signpost to on the staff noticeboard so they are always visible to staff
- Having information on the impacts, identification and who to signpost to within the school and externally on the schools shared drive make it accessible at all times for staff

Standard Three - Identify

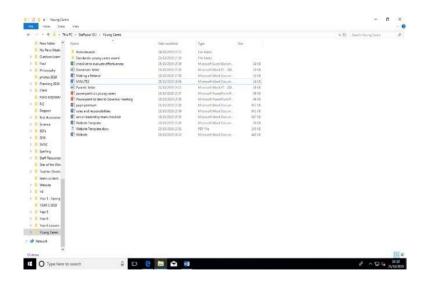


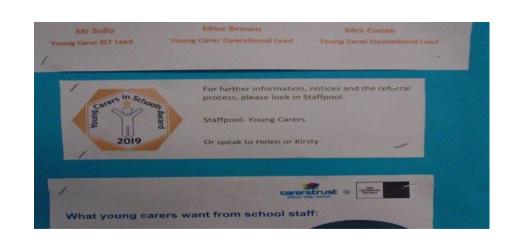




Staff noticeboard contains information on identification and signposting of young carers

Standard Three - Identify





Screenshot of shared staff drive, folders etc., and close up of signposting on staff noticeboard of the shared drive

LISTEN:

- Drop in sessions for young carers
- Young Carers group within the school
- A communication system for young carers to be able contact the young carer lead confidentially

Standard Four - Listen





Evidence of advertised drop-in sessions & system for young carers to message staff



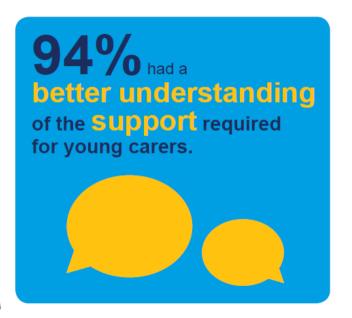
SUPPORT:

- Having support available in the school for young carers around homework/academic support
- Advertising outside agencies that can support young carers i.e. the local young carers service
- Providing details of wellbeing support or school nurse

Standard Five - Support



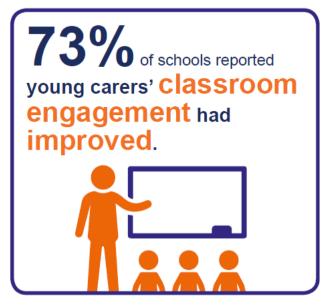
The Impact of YCiS Award



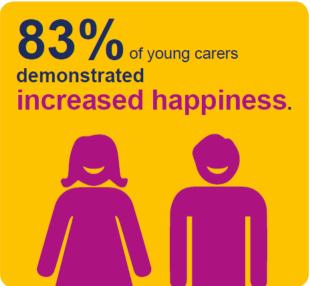
"The Young Carers in Schools Programme has enabled us to ensure that the right support is in place for Young Carers. We are now more aware and more able to address their needs."

Head teacher

The Impact of YCiS Award







For more information about Young Carers in schools including the award please contact:

YCiS@childrenssociety.org.uk

Multidimensional Assessment of Caring Activities (MACA-YC18)

Professor Saul Becker

Professor of Children and Families

Manchester Metropolitan University



The caring jobs I do

Below are some jobs that young carers do to help.

Think about the help you have provided over the last month.

Please read each one and put a tick in the box to show how often you have done each of the jobs in the last month. **Thankyou.**

| NACA- | YCI |
|-------|-----|
|-------|-----|

Please complete this first YC initials YC date of birth Today's date Name of young carers' service

| | | Never | Some of the time | A lot of the time |
|----|--|-------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Clean your own bedroom | | | |
| 2 | Clean other rooms | | | |
| 3 | Wash up dishes or put dishes in a dishwasher | | | |
| 4 | Decorale rooms | | | |
| 5 | Take responsibility for shopping for food | | | |
| 6 | Help with lifting or carrying heavy things | | | |
| 7 | Help with financial matters such as dealing with bills, banking money, collecting benefits | | | 0 |
| 8 | Work part time to bring money in | | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Interpret, sign or use another communication system for the person you care for | | | 0 |
| 10 | Help the person you care for to dress or undress | | | |
| 11 | Help the person you care for to have a wash | | | 0 |
| 12 | Help the person you care for to have a bath or shower | | | |
| 13 | Keep the person you care for company e.g. sitting with them, reading to them, taking to them | | | 0 |
| 14 | Keep an eye on the person you care for to make sure they are alright | | | |
| | Table the second of the second | | ! | |



Young Carers Alliance

Scoring for the MACA-YC18

For the MACA-YC18 each of the items are rated on a 3-point scale, 'Never', 'Some of the time', and 'A lot of the time'.

For scoring purposes:

"Never" = 0

"Some of the time" = 1

"A lot of the time" = 2

Overall Score of Caring Activity

The MACA-YC18 can be used to provide an overall summary score (index) of caring activity by totaling all 18 items. The lowest the young person can score is 0 and the highest the young person can score is 36. For example, if the young person ticks 'never' for each of the 18 items, they would get a total score of 0 but if they ticked 'a lot of the time' for each of the items, they would get a score of 36. Of course, most children and young people will score somewhere in between these two extremes. The average score is around 14.

Interpretation of scores on the MACA-YC18

Higher scores indicate greater levels of caring activity. The following categories are useful:

| 0 | No caring activity recorded |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1-9 | Low amount of caring activity |
| 10-13 | Moderate amount |
| 14-17 | High amount |
| 18 and above | Very high amount of caring activity |



Subscale scores

For more sophisticated research and assessment purposes where an individual profile for the young person is required, it is also possible to use the MACA-YC18 to identify the pattern of caring activity in six domains (subscales):

- Domestic Activity the extent to which the young person engages in activities such as cleaning, cooking, washing dishes or clothes etc.
- (2) Household Management the extent to which the young person engages in activities to keep the household running such as shopping, household repairs and lifting heavy objects etc.
- (3) Financial and Practical Management the extent to which the young person helps financially (for example with bills, benefits and banking), and takes practical adult responsibilities (such as working part-time, interpreting) etc.
- (4) Personal Care the extent to which the young person engages in caring activities such as helping the person dress and undress, wash and use the bathroom, helping with mobility and giving health care (such as administering medicine or changing dressings) etc.
- (5) Emotional Care the extent to which the young person provides company and emotional support to the person, keeping an eye on them, providing supervision and taking them out.
- (6) Sibling Care the extent to which the young person is responsible for looking after siblings either alone or with a parent present. This excludes any young person caring for his/her own child.

To calculate subscale scores:

| Subscales | Add the scores from the following questions: |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Domestic Activity | Questions 1,2 and 3 |
| Household Management | Questions 4, 5, and 6 |
| Financial and Practical Management | Questions 7, 8, and 9 |
| Personal Care | Questions 10, 11, and 12 |
| Emotional Care | Questions 13, 14, and 15 |
| Sibling Care | Questions 16, 17, and 18 |

You can find the MACA document here



Specific groups of young carers to be aware of

- Siblings
- Young carers supporting someone because of substance misuse
- Young carers supporting a parent with mental illness





Supporting Siblings – Young Carers Policy Forum

Clare Kassa, Chief Executive, Sibs clare@sibs.org.uk



The sibling journey starts in childhood

Children and young people who grow up with a brother or sister who is disabled, has special educational needs or a serious long-term condition may:

- Have less attention
- Have more worries
- Experience prejudice
- Be young carers
- Struggle with sleep, friendships and school-work
- Have experienced challenging behaviour
- May be overachievers, very passive or act out



Siblings as young carers

- Siblings are hidden young carers
- Needs often overlooked
- Often caring for multiple family members
- Sibling carers may be supporting brothers and sisters with behavioural challenges



- More likely to be caring for someone with a learning disability/autism than other young carers
- Might be providing care in school time
- It can be lifelong caring

Conflicts and Contradictions



Siblings often have to juggle

competing

influences and challenges which are often little understood by their peers, schools and communities

Thank you for listening

Please keep in touch – you can contact us: info@sibs.org.uk

Twitter @sibs_uk
Facebook @SibsCharity
LinkedIn company/sibs_2
Instagram sibscharity_uk

www.sibs.org.uk



Community Hidden Harm Awareness Team (CHHAT)

The Children's Society

Tracy Page
The Children's Society

Community Hidden Harm Awareness Team (CHHAT)

The Children's Society Supporting children and YP aged 8-19 affected by parents or carers' familial substance misuse, addiction and mental health issues



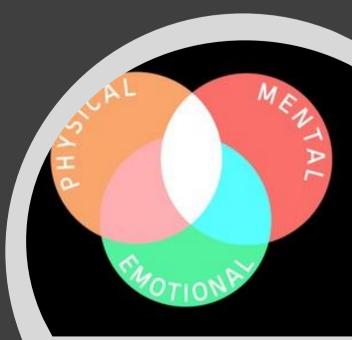








Definition



Depression

















Safely referred to the service





- Social Services
 - Schools
 - Police
- Local Authorities
 - GP Surgeries
- Young Carer Groups

Research found:



- 700,000 children aged between 10 and 17 are estimated to be living with one or two alcoholdependent parents in the UK
- 2.6 million children live with parents who drink to hazardous levels
- 1 in 3 children aged 10-17 experience negative consequences as a result of their parent's drinking

CHHAT SUPPORT

The Children's Society Self Care

Consistent and reliable support from a trusted adult

Safe spaces for sharing

Breaking the cycle of blame - understanding addiction and rethinking blame

Safety planning to decrease risk

Working with families and professionals

Peer support

CHHAT

(Community Hidden Harm Awareness Team)

The Children's Society CHHAT engaged with 87 young people between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 delivering group and one to one sessions. The majority of referrals received were via Social Care teams, with the second most common route being via educational professionals.





Why do they need support?

These children are:

- Three times more likely to develop mental health problems themselves
 (Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, NHS Digital (2017))
- Often not identified until their situation reaches crisis/safeguarding point.
 This is often because they don't see themselves as young carers
- Often missed because so much of their support is emotional or because the biggest issue is the impact on them
- Parental mental health difficulties were a factor in more than half of Serious Case Reviews (NSPCC, 2015)

How to improve identification

Language is key

- If you only ask about pupils supporting someone with a disability, then this cohort of young carers will always be missed
- Specifically mentioning mental illness is key as is raising awareness of mental health generally
- There can often be a fear/distrust of professionals, so making clear **why** you're asking about young carers can really help identification.

It's not just the physical side



- For many young carers supporting someone with a mental illness it's the emotional side they find most difficult
- There can also be the challenge that mental health can dramatically fluctuate, sometimes being stable for months or even years and then quickly into a crisis
- For others, there is the juggling of mental health with physical illness/disability or substance misuse



Nancyon

www.ourtime.org.uk contact@ourtime.org.uk





An example of the difference that having systems to identify, record and track young carers can make

Laura Cole, MYTIME Young Carers

Samantha Viney, Principal, Glenmoor & Winton Academies













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Level up programme

- Currently working with over 70 schools and colleges in Dorset
- Create a young carers policy personalised to the school
- Deliver staff CPD on how to identify and support young carers
- Support the Young Carer Champions with regular meetings
- Lead on MAT meetings to share good practice
- Deliver assemblies and PSHE lessons to students in all year groups
- Provide opportunities for young carers to attend Making Memories days
- Education Summit that over 100 education and health & social care professionals attended





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Young carers policy

- Encourage all schools to have a young carer champion
- Have a SLT link
- Have a governor link
- Identify young carers on MIS e.g. SIMS
- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students

"The help with the policy was amazing, guilty as charged we didn't have one before we worked with you and the thought for staff of sitting down and starting to write a policy was very off-putting, so your support was fantastic and being able to personalise it and make it realistic to our school was wonderful, and great to be able to put in front of governors."

Jane Pope – Burton Primary School



Tracking young carers

- The Blandford School The Young Carer Champion has monthly meetings with his SLT lead to discuss the attainment of young carers in the school
- Ambitions Academies include young carers in the groups that they monitor in their progress meetings such as PP, SEND etc.
- MAT meetings where schools review if and how they are meeting the policy aims and share good practice.

"Thank you for all the regular meetings that have inspired us to make things better for our young carers. You have enabled us and made us think about Young Carers in our school and for that reason we are now able to support more young people." Sue Heathman – King's Park Academy (Ambitions Academies)









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Glenmoor and Winton academies

11 – 16 Secondary modern

Two co-located secondary schools

1856 students on roll

2019-2020:17 Young Carers

2021-2022: **92** Young Carers



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'LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD'

Create a culture/Ethos of high expectations to raise aspirations for all

Do not treat Young Carers as an underachieving group – Fundamental starting point for all staff

More than just an extra curricular provision



"IF IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE HEAD IT'S IMPORTANT TO EVERYBODY"











The role:

- Starting point Project based role
- Project proposal linked to school priorities
- Now paid position
- SLT link for Young Carers
- Governor Link for Young Carers

Raising standards

Know your students

- Track on MIS, seating plans Including prior attainment, SEND/EAL/EAA/PP
- Interests/barriers to learning/successes to learning (Young Carers Club)

Identify key foci – Have a plan

YC Strategy to be driven by this through all areas

Communication - Over communicate

- SLT, Department, Pastoral meetings, Briefings, CPD, BPB
- Embed strategies through T&L, Behaviour, CPD
- Parental link









Successes

- Improved attendance
- Increase in participation
- Boosted confidence
- Positive attitude to Learning
- Celebrate and raise the profile of Young Carers
- Influencing support for Young Carers across United Learning schools



"Ever since my school started recognising me as a young carer and supporting me things have been so much better. When my school took part in Hair2Care it made me feel like the other students understood me better."

Young Carer at Glenmoor and Winton Academies









Any questions???



Thank you



Young Carers and the Schools Census

Comms Pack for schools

www.caringtogether.org/school census

Young Carers Checklist for schools



Task

Complete?

Appoint a member of staff as Young Carers champion to ensure young carers have a trusted adult they can turn to – ensure the champion has a route to escalate issues to senior management Arrange young carer awareness-raising for all pupils

Arrange young carer awareness-raising for all staff

Co-produce a Young Carers Policy/agreement/statement with young carers outlining what support is available in your school Ensure existing policies reflect the specific needs of young carers

Ensure staff know how to refer to local young carers support Ensure that the school, school events (e.g. parents evening) and school communications are accessible to ensure parents can fully support their children and participate in the life of the school

Examples of Young Carer Policies and models of support for schools

Ensure there is a young carers flag on your pupil management



Young Carer Policies

Example A

Intent Statement

Example A school acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the school is giving the message that young carers' education is important.

AIRAC

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- . To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities

Thank you for attending

Dates for your diary:
Thursday 24 November, 10am-1pm – Young
Carers and Health

Thursday 1 December, 1:30-3pm – Improving health and wellbeing of young carers through sport

www.youngcarersalliance.org
youngcarersalliance@caringtogether.org

