

BEING HEARD,

YOUNG CARERS VOICES

In September 2021 the Young Carers National Voice network (YCNV) published a paper titled “Young Carers’ Rights: Making them Real”.

Young Carers National Voice is a growing network of local organisations that are committed to promoting the voice of young carers.

The aim of the network is to bring together young carers from across the country to campaign collectively on the issues that are important to them. YCNV’s report highlighted that the Children and Families Act 2014 and Care Act 2014 had introduced important new rights for young carers. These came into force in April 2015 but as yet there has been no effective action from government to ensure that these rights were made real.

All too often, we see surveys and focus groups undertaken and reports written with recommendations that result in no impact or actual change. However, it is quite the reverse, with the YCNV paper. This is already something of a historic document as there have been several significant and positive developments since its publication. Some of the young carers’ key asks in the paper have actually been met:

- Inclusion of carers and young carers in the Health and Care Act 2022, following a major campaign supported by members of the Young Carers Alliance and YCNV;
- Young carers are to be included in the annual Schools Census from January 2023, accompanied by a performance indicator based on the number of young carers identified by schools;

[1]

MAKING CHANGE



- The Children's Commissioner for England's office has included young carers in their "Big Ask" and several subsequent pieces of work. They are now seen as key partners.

These developments have been followed by the launch of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Young Carers and Young Adult Carers which held it's first meeting on 20 July 2022. The idea of the APPG was first formulated following a meeting in Parliament in Carers Week in June 2019.

It was attended by nine young carers services from across the country, Carers Trust, and parliamentary allies, and was coordinated by Sheffield Young Carers and Paul Blomfield MP. The meeting also led to the formation of Young Carers National Voice.

The YCNV Young Carers Rights paper has been partially overtaken by events; but only as a result of the change making that it was an important part of. We think it is worth celebrating this, while calling for action on the outstanding issues identified by young carers; including around social care and training.

Much More to Do!

Government and new Integrated Care Systems aimed at:

- Ensuring young carers and their families know their rights and what support is available to them in their local community – including specific young carers' services.
- Ensuring that councils have and allocate adequate funding to provide young carers' services that meet the need in their area.

- Ensuring that anyone who undertakes a young carer's assessment and transition assessment is properly trained and able to explain the benefits of the assessment to young carers and their families.

- Ensuring assessments are reviewed and updated so young carers and young adult carers can get additional support if things have changed."

We are seeing action in education through the inclusion of young carers in the annual Schools Census. The Care Quality Commission has been given new powers under the Health and Care Act to inspect adult social care assessments and services and should ensure that there is a whole family approach in adult social care that recognises the needs of young carers.

Ofsted need to include young carers issues in inspections of children's social care services. Both organisations need to collect and publish performance data to evidence that young carers' needs are being assessed and supported.

Work is also needed to ensure that the voices of young carers are heard by the new Integrated Care Boards. The change we are already seeing has been driven by young carers, what happens next also needs to be so.

[2]



"IT'S A GREAT WAY FOR OTHERS TO BE HEARD AND RECOGNISED"

And Young Carers Said:

'Things I'm proud of...

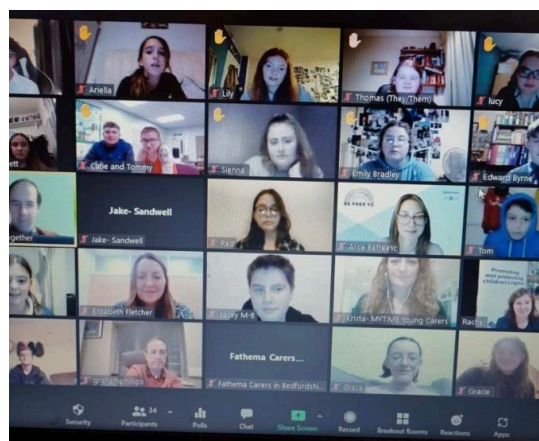
- "All the progress we have made and the influence we are gaining"
- 'Being able to act as part of a group to ensure that the voice of young carers across the country is heard"
- "I know I'm making a difference and making it a little easier for future young carers"
- "Allowing those to see that we've got a voice and we should feel proud to use it"

'How would you describe YCNV to someone else...

- "A platform to collate and form ideas that will help current and future young carers"
- "A place to discuss issues that make a difference on a wider scale"
- "If u want to make change happen, to gain confidence and to help other young carers get their voices heard than I think you should join"

- "It's a good chance to voice your own opinions and help empower others. It also gives a confidence boost and is definitely something to put in your CV or personal statement"
- "it's a great way for others to be heard and recognised"
- "Its a great opportunity to push for change"
- "it is fun and effective"

[3]



Young Carers National Voice

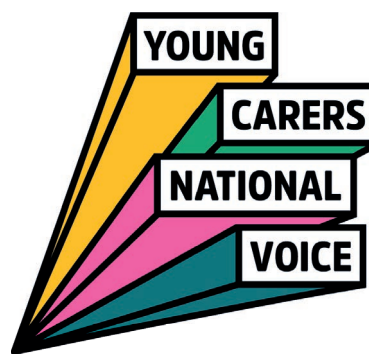
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LOUDER TOGETHER