



Motion on Young Carers Research Group

Introduction

1. The Council referred a motion to the Adult Social Care Select Committee and the Children & Education Select Committee at its meeting on 6 May 2014. The text of the motion is included in **annex 1** of this report.
2. To assist with considering the motion, it was agreed to establish a joint research group, Motion on Young Carers Research Group, comprised of Zully Grant-Duff (Chairman), Margaret Hicks, Colin Kemp and Richard Walsh.
3. The Motion on Young Carers Research Group adopted approach is described in **annex 2** of this report.

Context

4. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Surrey defines a young carer as: “A young carer is a child or young person under 18 who provides regular and ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.”¹
5. The [Children & Families Act, 2014](#)² has strengthened the rights of young carers, including the right to a needs assessment through an amendment to Section 17 of [the Children’s Act, 1989](#).³ This is further reinforced by the [Care Act, 2014](#)⁴. Local authorities are required, where there is an adult in the household with care and support needs, to take children into consideration as part of a “whole family assessment.”

¹ The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2014
<http://www.surreyi.gov.uk/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=659> (accessed 17/06/2014)

² The Children & Families Act, 2014 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted> (access 05/06/2014)

³ The Children’s Act, 1989 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents> (accessed 05/06/2014)

⁴ The Care Act, 2014 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted> (accessed 05/06/2014)

Identification of young carers

6. It is estimated that there are 14,000 young carers in Surrey and 700,000 in the UK as a whole.⁵ Surrey County Council supports 1650 young carers a year through its Young Carers' Service. This is double the number supported 5 years ago, but represents only 12% of the estimated number of young carers in Surrey.
7. It is believed there are many barriers to identifying young carers, including a social stigma attached to the role and a potential lack of self-identification in terms of having caring responsibilities.
8. Some young carers will already be eligible for Pupil Premium due to meeting the criteria already in place. However, it is difficult to identify the number of young carers currently eligible for Pupil Premium, due to the barriers mentioned, and the fact that there is presently no set process for correlating the data. The JSNA comments, "currently there is not a system in place that all schools can report the number of young carers attending their school."⁶

Recommendation 1: That the Director for Children, Schools and Families considers how schools can be supported in identifying and reporting the number of young carers.

Awareness of young carers' needs

9. Children's Services produced a Young Carers' Audit in 2011, the purpose of which was to establish the level of awareness around the needs of young carers within schools. The final response rate to the audit was 53%, or over 200 schools.
10. An updated Young Carers Audit is currently being undertaken, and it is anticipated that it will provide an evidence base for how things have progressed. It contains a set of questions that ask how Pupil Premium is used to support young carers.

Recommendation 2: That the Children & Education Select Committee considers the findings of the Young Carers Audit 2014 in autumn 2014.

⁵ NHS Guildford and Waverley Commissioning Group and Surrey Young Carers (2013) *Surrey Young Carers Health Survey Report 2013* Available at:<http://carersworldradio.ihoststudio.com/carersnet/surrey%20young%20carers2.pdf> Accessed on 30/05/2014

⁶ The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2014 <http://www.surreyi.gov.uk/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=659> (accessed 17/06/2014)

Identifying and supporting the specific needs of young carers

11. The JSNA comments: “If more young carers and young adult carers are identified then more information can be gathered about the specific needs of young carers in Surrey.”⁷
12. Witnesses commented that there are also a diverse set of caring responsibilities that a young carer may be asked to undertake, and some would not present a challenge to the young person’s educational outcomes.
13. The JSNA sets out a number of recommendations for future commissioning concerning young carers. It makes explicit reference to how schools can support young carers, recommending the following: “**Empower schools to identify and support young carers.** Consider the use of young carers ID cards and a young carers charter in schools. A recommendation from the Adult Social Care committee in October 2013 is that each school have a governor responsible for supporting young carers. Identification and support for young carers in schools needs to be prioritised by senior management to enable schools to participate in activities identifying and supporting young carers.”⁸
14. Following the recommendation from the Adult Social Care Select Committee, the Cabinet Member for Schools & Learning and the Cabinet Associate for Adult Social Care wrote to all Surrey schools, highlighting the change in legislation concerning Young Carers.
15. This letter also included information of the services schools are able to access for young carers, and details of two pilot Governor briefing sessions. These sessions were delivered by Surrey Young Carers in partnership with the Babcock 4S Schools’ Support Service. A copy of this letter and accompanying material is included as **annex 3** of this report.

Recommendation 3: That the pilot Governor briefing sessions are expanded, and that the Cabinet Member for Schools & Learning and the Cabinet Associate for Adult Social Care continue to engage with school governors on the matter of young carers.

16. In light of the change in legislation, both officers and the aforementioned Cabinet Member and Cabinet Associate are engaging with schools to understand how the Local Authority and Surrey schools can improve support

⁷ The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), 2014
<http://www.surreyi.gov.uk/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=659> (accessed 17/06/2014)

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to young carers. There are opportunities to undertake further work in schools in partnership with Babcock 4s and Surrey Young Carers.

Recommendation 4: That the Schools and Learning and Adult Social Care Service together with Babcock 4S Schools' Support Service consider developing further training for schools in regard to supporting young carers.

17. Young carers in Surrey are supported across agencies through the *Interagency Strategy for Young Carers in Surrey 2011 - 2014 Multi Agency Action Plan*. A review of this strategy commenced on 28 May 2014 and is being undertaken by the Young Carers' Strategic Group. It was highlighted that at present there is no education representative on this group.

Recommendation 5: That the refreshed Interagency Strategy for Young Carers in Surrey is considered by the Adult Social Care Select Committee and Children & Education Select Committee in autumn 2014.

Recommendation 6: That the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning appoints an education representative to the Young Carers' Strategic Group, and that consideration is given to a representative from Babcock 4S also joining the group.

18. The Department of Health has also developed a School Nurse Service Young Carers Pathway⁹ and work is being undertaken with Public Health, Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS provider trusts to implement this.

Recommendation 7: That the Health Scrutiny Committee receives a report on the implementation of the School Nurse Service Young Carers Pathway at a future meeting.

Conclusions

19. The change in legislation represents an opportunity to strengthen the work undertaken in Surrey to support young carers. Surrey has been recognised as an area of good practice nationally in how it does this work¹⁰, and is comparatively well placed to meet the challenges the change in legislation represents.

⁹ Department of Health, 2014 '[Supporting the Health and Wellbeing of Young Carers](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299270/Young_Carers_pathway_Interactive_FINAL.pdf)'
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299270/Young_Carers_pathway_Interactive_FINAL.pdf

¹⁰ For example in April 2013, Dame Philippa Russell (Chair, Standing Commission on Carers) wrote that "We have so much to learn from the work that you have developed in Surrey around real multi-agency working and also proactive and strategic partnerships with carers." (Source: '[Supporting Carers](#)', [Adult Social Care Select Committee report, 24 October 2013](#))

20. The principle of additional investment for young carers is a sound one, but at present there is no consistent mechanism for identifying and supporting young carers in schools. The JSNA recognises that the first task is to develop this as a priority at a senior management and leadership level in schools. This is being supported through a number of work strands, including the work of the Cabinet Member and Cabinet Associate, and the Governors workshops.
21. Witnesses commented that expanding Pupil Premium to young carers could potentially incentivise schools in identifying this group. However, it has to be recognised that many young carers do not wish to be identified. Additionally witnesses suggested there would need to be some criteria in place to address the fact that not all young carers identified in schools would require education support, but instead could be supported through engagement with social services or the Young Carers' Service.
22. The Research Group are of the view that the identification of need linked to the appropriate support and response for young carers is the current priority, rather than a focus on the Pupil Premium. The group notes it is recognised good practice that support for young carers should follow a multi agency approach, in order to achieve the best outcomes for young people and their families.

Recommendations

23. The recommendations are included throughout this report and listed below for ease of reference. The Adult Social Care Committee are asked to endorse the recommendations of the Motion on Young Carers Research Group.
- 1) That the Director for Children, Schools and Families considers how schools can be supported in identifying and reporting the number of young carers.
 - 2) That the Children & Education Select Committee considers the findings of the Young Carers Audit 2014 in autumn 2014.
 - 3) That the pilot Governor briefing sessions are expanded, and that the Cabinet Member for Schools & Learning and the Cabinet Associate for Adult Social Care continue to engage with school governors on the matter of young carers.
 - 4) That the Schools and Learning and Adult Social Care Service together with Babcock 4S Schools' Support Service consider developing further training for schools in regard to supporting young carers.

- 5) That the refreshed Interagency Strategy for Young Carers in Surrey is considered by the Adult Social Care Select Committee and Children & Education Select Committee in autumn 2014.
- 6) That the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning appoints an education representative to the Young Carers' Strategic Group, and that consideration be given to a representative from Babcock 4S also joining the group.
- 7) That the Health Scrutiny Committee receives a report on the implementation of the School Nurse Service Young Carers Pathway at a future meeting.

Next steps

24. The refreshed Interagency Strategy for Young Carers to be reported to Adult Social Care Select Committee and the Children & Education Select Committee.
25. The Recommendations to be sent to the relevant services and Cabinet Members for a response and action.

**Dr Zully Grant-Duff,
Chairman of Children & Education Select Committee**

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