

Appendix 3

Tel: 03456 009 009

Email steve.cosser@surreycc.gov.uk

To Surrey Schools



Our ref:/ JB

17 June, 2014

Dear

We are writing following the Government announcing a move to significantly strengthen the rights of young carers under the age of 18.

The change to the law arising from the Children and Families Act will from April 2015 mean that when a child is identified as a young carer, the needs of everyone in the family are to be considered. This should trigger action from both children's and adults services – assessing why a child is caring, what needs to change and what would help the family to prevent children from taking on this responsibility in the first place.

The legislation will also require councils to take reasonable steps to identify young carers and reduce pressures on them. As you may realise, schools can play a key role in identifying and supporting young carers, including by referring them to other sources of help. The County Council would ask schools to consider designating a School Governor with a lead on young carers issues to help promote such an approach.

National good practice guidelines produced by charities working to support young carers offer advice around how: "Governing bodies in schools make provision for policy and practice that supports young carers and promotes good communication with their families." The guidelines also highlight the importance of ensuring that young carers are able to be fully involved in school life and communicating with the parents of the young carers. These also look at how curriculum and assessment processes can take account of the needs of vulnerable pupils, including young carers. An explanatory leaflet from the national charities the Carers Trust and the Childrens Society is attached for information.

The Surrey Young Carers service offer advice to Surrey schools provided by education advisers and can be contacted on **01483 302748**. They will be able to offer some training to School Governors in June in partnership with Babcock 4S and details of these are set out overleaf. I hope you will find these sessions of interest and that your Governors will consider nominating someone to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Children and Learning

Steve Cosser
Associate Cabinet Member Adult Social Care

Supporting Young Carers in School

Free Governor briefing sessions

9th JUNE 2014: 5:00 - 6:00pm

NASUWT Offices

Milestone House, Portsmouth Road, Send, Woking, GU23 7JZ

23rd JUNE 2014: 5:00 - 6:00pm

Tandridge Education Partnership Centre (de Stafford School)

Burntwood Lane, Caterham, CR3 5YX

You can book places free via the Babcock online booking system or see the Babcock bulletin, Governor Update.

On average, there are two young carers in every classroom. One of them is having significant problems in attending school, or achieving their potential in their studies. It is estimated that there are about 14,000 young people in Surrey looking after a member of their family affected by disability, illness or substance misuse.

This seminar will give attendees an understanding of who young carers are, what they do and how it affects their health, wellbeing and opportunities. It will give insight into how it specifically affects their ability to learn and succeed in their education.

In addition, attendees will be given an understanding of how the statutory and voluntary sectors are working together to help these young people. Finally, there will be practical recommendations and examples of what schools can do to identify and support this group of vulnerable students.

Surrey Young Carers is a service managed by the charity Action for Carers Surrey. The Education Advisory team work with schools and colleges across the county to raise awareness of carer issues and assist staff in developing internal support for students affected by these issues, including the provision of PSHE teaching resources.

Examples of some of the resources available can be accessed via

<http://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/professionals/working-young-carers-under-18/resources-downloads/>

