

ORIGINAL MOTION

Meeting of Council, Tuesday, 6 May 2014 10.30 am (Item 13)

Item 13(iii)

Mr Will Forster (Woking South) to move under Standing Order 11 as follows:

‘Council notes:

- Young Carers are children and young people in Surrey’s schools and colleges who provide regular and on-going care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances;
- the tasks and level of caring undertaken by Surrey’s Young Carers can vary according to the nature of the illness or disability, the level and frequency of care needed and the structure of the family as a whole;

Council further notes that:

- the support Surrey County Council currently offers is through school staff and governors;
- many schools have a designated member of staff for Young Carers;
- many governing bodies now include the performance and well-being of Young Carers as an agenda item at their meetings, which should be considered “best practice”.
- the Pupil Premium is an additional allowance to support certain groups of children and young people at risk of not achieving their potential;
- children entitled to free school meals are eligible for Pupil Premium of £1,300 a year for primary pupils and £935 a year for secondary pupils;
- whilst eligibility for free school meals is the main criteria for entitlement to Pupil Premium, other groups are also entitled to Pupil Premium including children in care, adopted children, children in hospital schools and service personnel children;
- including Young Carers within Pupil Premium eligibility would enable schools and colleges to provide additional support to these young people.

Given the challenges faced by Young Carers, Council resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning to write to:

- the Secretary of State for Education, the Minister of State for Schools, and the national Pupil Premium Champion, noting the content of this motion and asking that consideration be given to widen the eligibility for Pupil Premium to include Young Carers;

- the Chair of the Local Government Association, asking his organisation to support this campaign;
- the Headteachers of all schools in Surrey, asking them to lend their support to this request and to consider how best to support Young Carers, including identifying a designated member of staff and regularly monitoring the performance and well-being of Young Carers through their Governing Body; providing additional support where needed; and to work with to ensure Young Carers are supported and not disadvantaged because of the voluntary work they undertake looking after others.'