

Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting	1 June 2017
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Sponsoring Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board Member	Helen Atkinson and Mel Few

Item / paper title: **Young Carers in Surrey Schools**

Purpose of item / paper	<p>Describes work in Surrey Schools to improve identification and support of young carers including through the development of a new play "People Like Us". This was delivered in 15 Surrey Schools and seen by about 3000 young people and also by over 150 education, health and social care professionals.</p> <p>A high quality filmed version has been made to help disseminate this in Surrey Schools and more widely and will provide a valuable resource for awareness raising.</p>
Surrey Health and Wellbeing priority(ies) supported by this item / paper	<p>This work directly contribute to improving young carers' health and wellbeing and indirectly that of their families. This is an important initiative in terms of promoting the principles of the Carers Memorandum of Understanding ("Together for Carers") in Surrey schools and with health and social care staff</p>
How does the report contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic priorities in the following areas?	<p>The play will help improve the identification and support for young carers and thereby enable early intervention support to be more readily provided.</p> <p>The play will also enable social care and health staff such as school nurses to work together in supporting schools to identify and support young carers. Moreover, it encourages a whole system approach that is so important in terms of promoting effective preventative work.</p> <p>There is significant research evidence that shows that young carers' education and life chances are adversely effected where there is a failure to identify them and offer support.</p> <p>The key setting in which young carers can be identified is schools and colleges and the new play will help improve identification.</p> <p>A number of schools now have effective policies for supporting young carers and showing the film will also provide opportunities for promoting this good practice more widely and raising awareness amongst teaching staff.</p>

<p>Financial implications - confirmation that any financial implications have been included within the paper</p>	<p>This play has been developed supported by independent fund raising undertaken by Action for Carers Surrey from a wide range of sources - although a significant contribution was made by NHS England.</p>
<p>Consultation / public involvement – activity taken or planned</p>	<p>The play was developed through a co-design process with significant input from young carers to script development.</p>
<p>Equality and diversity - confirmation that any equality and diversity implications have been included within the paper</p>	<p>Young carers are themselves a disadvantaged group and carers are protected by the Equality Act through provisions around associative discrimination. Written guidance will accompany the filmed version of the play. This will highlight the need to ensure that the resource is seen by all sections of the student population and that no assumptions made about particular groups being more amenable to the idea of children and young people having caring responsibilities.</p>
<p>Actions requested / Recommendations</p>	<p>The Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:</p> <p><i>Endorse the approach of encouraging all Surrey schools and colleges to make use of the resource and to work together with staff from health, social care and Action for Carers' Surrey Young Carers to identify and support young carers.</i></p>