

Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Young Carers: Working Group Meeting: 5th September 2012

Appendix 4

Tony Britten (co-optee) (TB)
Jacque Ward (co-optee) (JW)

Partner Organisation Representatives

Barnardo's – Sylvia Shatwell, Service Manager Willow Young Carers

Officers

Andrea Richardson – Head of Early Years Help Services

Paul Bollom – Head of Commissioning and Marketing Management

Sandra Newbould – (SN) Principal Scrutiny Advisor

Apologies Barbara Robinson – Principal Officer Childrens Commissioning

No.	Item	Action
1	Attendance The attendance and apologies as above were noted. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	Matters Arising None	
3	Introduction The working group was established following a Call-in meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) on the 7 th of June 2012. The decision called in related to delegated decision LCC 13002: Young Carers, signed by the Director of Children's Services which effectively awarded a contract to Barnardo's with effect from the 1 st of June 2012. The Scrutiny Board released the decision for implementation however specified that further work should be undertaken by the board to identify how the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identifies and engages with young people who are carers,• promotes the support available to those who may not have identified themselves as a young carer• Ensures young carers are given the support they need to succeed in school under difficult circumstances.	

	<p>Members of the working group were provided with a report from the Director of Childrens Services ' Young Carers Working Group' and a copy of the agreed minutes from the Call In meeting 7th June 2012. The report was presented to the working group by Andrea Richardson.</p>	
4	<p>Questions, Statements and Outcomes</p> <p>The working group was advised that it is estimated that there are approximately 4000 young carers in Leeds based on University of Nottingham research conducted in 2010.</p> <p>A range of support is provided to young carers by the Council and Partners to provide help and assistance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a strong and supportive universal offer for children and young people that recognises the issues that young carers face. • Putting targeted services in place such as Family Intervention Services • Awareness raising • Working effectively with Adult Social Services and Health Services <p>Support for young carers needs to be delivered by a number of services from across the Council, particularly relating to adult social care, housing or benefit issues and consideration needs to be made about how decisions relating to adults will impact on a young carer.</p> <p>The Young Carers service commissioned by Children's Services is delivered by Barnardo's 'Willows' services.</p> <p>A strategy for all age carers is currently in development, which will encompass the support requirements for young carers.</p> <p><i>The working group made the following observations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The working group felt that the all age carers strategy should be considered by the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) before it is presented to Executive Board. – See recommendation 1</i> • <i>The working group asked what processes were in place to enable the systematic identification of young carers. It was identified that there is scope for stronger links between services and closer working, particularly Adult Social Care which will increase professional knowledge and understanding and better support to young carers – See recommendation 2</i> • <i>The requirement for a children's impact assessment during council wide decision making processes to ensure decisions relating to adults have minimal negative impact for children and young people – See recommendation 5</i> 	

During the commissioning process consultation with young carers was undertaken to identify the views of young carers and what they wanted from a new service. 40 Children and young people participated.

The areas identified for improvement were discussed which included practical help and respite, better support in schools, young people friendly health services, youth service support and better IT solutions which enable mobile working.

The working group were advised of how support is advertised and about the additional information provided to young carers through the family hub, Willows Young Carers website and the 'Young Adult Carers' website.

The working group made the following observations:

- *The working group were advised that not all schools were taking up the services available to them through the 'Willows Young Carers' contract in order to support young carers in schools. – See recommendation 4*
- *To ensure adequate succession planning there should be a clear named link in every school with responsibility for working with Willow Young Carers.*
- *Children's Services professionals should have an understanding of Adult social Care respite criteria in order to assist young carers. – See recommendation 6*
- *That young carers have a facility where they can drop in for a break, support or advice. It was suggested that utilising Children's Centres could be explored further – See recommendation 7*
- *Targeted youth services support for young carers should be considered as part of the youth service review – To be raised in the October Youth Services Working Group meeting.*
- *Conventional school based education may not meet the learning needs of all young carers and therefore flexible IT solutions should be investigated – See recommendation 10*
- *The working group asked if educational outcomes are monitored for young carers to identify trends, inform targeted support and reduce the risk of NEET and were advised that specific tracking does not occur – See recommendation 3*
- *Advertising of support and services should be delivered through schools and trusted professionals. – See recommendation 9. In addition the working group felt that further work needed to be done to reassure young carers and those receiving care of the supportive role of Social Workers – See recommendation 8*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The need for ongoing consultation and engagement with young carers to identify problems and develop solutions – See recommendation 11</i> 	
5	<p>Further Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes and Recommendation to be brought before the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) in September 2012 for agreement. • Once agreed the recommendation to be presented in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure rules and feedback sought from relevant Directors and the Chief Executive. • Observations relating to Youth Services be communicated to the Youth Services Working Group at the October meeting by the Principal Scrutiny Advisor. 	