



LINKING WITH ORGANISATIONS THAT SUPPORT YOUNG CARERS

A factsheet for school and college staff in Wales



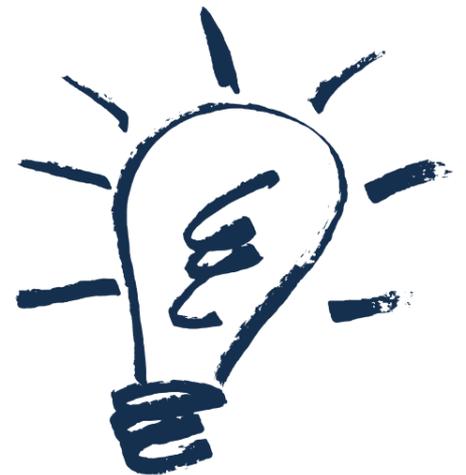
INTRODUCTION

Teachers and other school and college staff are in a key position to identify young carers, to support them in the learning environment, and where appropriate, signpost them on to other services.

The frequent and regular contact staff have with young carers enables them to observe the impact of caring on their development, well-being and resilience. This information can be shared with other services to help the young person, although it is important to ensure that appropriate consent has been obtained before sharing information, in line with your school or college's information sharing policies.

IF SCHOOL OR COLLEGE IS THE FIRST PLACE IN WHICH A YOUNG CARER IS IDENTIFIED IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE INSTITUTION WORKS WITH THE YOUNG CARER AND THEIR FAMILY TO SIGNPOST THEM TO ANY RELEVANT HELP AND SUPPORT.

Young carers may already be in receipt of support from local authority social services, health services, and from young carers' services which are often provided by the voluntary sector. When a young carer is identified within a school or college context it can be helpful for staff to work with the young carer and their family to build connections between the school or college, their social worker (if they have one) and young carers services, to ensure that a holistic package of support is developed and delivered for the young carer.



A recent **Estyn thematic report on young carers¹** on young carers evaluated the quality of provision for young carers in education settings in Wales. The report recommended better engagement between schools, FE colleges and Pupil Referral Units, statutory services e.g. local authority provision, and voluntary sector services to ensure that young carers receive the support they need. This factsheet provides information on the key services providing support for young carers.

LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL SERVICES

Social services are legally responsible for providing or arranging services for people who need care and support (e.g. disabled adults and children) and for carers who need support, including young carers. They also have statutory duties around safeguarding and child protection. Local authority social services are therefore a key resource for young carers and their families. They provide a key point of contact for families and individuals who wish to request information, advice and assistance. Contact details are listed at the end of this factsheet.



YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT SERVICES

There is a young carers' service in every local authority area in Wales. Some services are delivered directly by the local authority, with others delivered by Network Partners of Carers Trust Wales, YMCA, Action for Children and Barnardo's.

Carers' services vary in the scope and types of support they provide and the way they operate. Services may include young carers' clubs, activities, respite activities, one-to-one support for the young carer, and family support.

Signposting young people to their local carers' service can give them access to invaluable support and expert advice. Many young carers also benefit from the friendship and support of the other young carers they meet through the young carers service.

In some areas young carers may need to have had a statutory local authority carers' needs assessment to access a carers' service. In other areas the local carers' service may carry out its own form assessment to determine access to the service.

Some carers' services visit schools and colleges and run specific schemes to help them to improve the experiences and outcomes of carers in school. In some areas this may be delivered on a regional basis. Young carers' services can be a valuable source of advice and expertise for young carers, their families and school/college staff.



YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Blaenau Gwent 01495 315700

Bridgend 01656 642320 / 07989 655512

Caerphilly 0808 100 2500

Cardiff 02920 234234

Carmarthenshire 0300 333 2222

Ceredigion 01545 574000

Conwy 0300 456 1111

Denbighshire 0300 456 1000

Flintshire 01352 803444

Gwynedd

Llŷn area: 01758 704099

Caernarfon area: 01286 679099

Bangor area: 01248 363240

Eifionydd and Meirionnydd

North: 01766 510300

South Meirionnydd: 01341 424499

Isle of Anglesey 01248 752736

Merthyr Tydfil 01685 725000

Monmouthshire 01633 644644

Neath Port Talbot 01639 686802

Newport 01633 656656

Pembrokeshire 01437 764551

Powys 01597 827666

Rhondda Cynon Taf 01443 425003

Swansea 01792 636519

Torfaen 01495 762200

Vale of Glamorgan 01446 700111

Wrexham 01978 292066

YOUNG CARERS SERVICES

Blaenau Gwent Young Carers 08000 32 33 39

Bridgend Young Carers Project 01656 658479

Caerphilly Young Carers 01633 615859

Cardiff YMCA Young Carers 02920 465250

Carmarthenshire Young Carers Service 01554 742630

Ceredigion Young Carers Service 01437 761330

Conwy - WCD Young Carers 01597 823800

Denbighshire - WCD Young Carers 01597 823800

Flintshire Young Carers 01352 755422

Gwynedd Young Carers 01248 364614

Isle of Anglesey Young Carers 01248 364614

Merthyr Young Carers Service 01685 725171

Monmouthshire Young Carers 01495 366993

Neath Port Talbot Young Carers Service 01639 763030

Newport Young Carers 01633 251192

Pembrokeshire Young Carers 01437 761330

Powys Young Carers 01597 823800

Rhondda Cynon Taf Young Carers 01443 668839

Swansea Young Carers Project 01792 652032

Torfaen Young Carers 01495 762200

Vale of Glamorgan Young Carers Project 02920 465250

Wrexham - WCD Young Carers 01597 823800

REFERENCES



1. Estyn (2019) *Provision for young carers in secondary schools, further education colleges and pupil referral units across Wales*. [Accessed on 1 May 2020].



CONTACT

www.carers.org

wales@carers.org

@CarersTrustWal

@CarersTrust

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