**STEP 3**

**Tool 5:**

Targeting pupil development grant funding to young carers: Good practice examples

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**Purpose**

The following suggestions are low cost solutions which can be implemented by schools, using the Pupil Development, to support the delivery of the recommendations set out in this Step by Step guide.

**Guidance**

Research into the circumstances of over 1,000 young carers highlighted that only 4% of adult family members being looked after by young carers were in employment (Dearden and Becker, 2004).This highlights the significant number of young carers eligible for free school meals that would benefit from targeted support funded through the Pupil Development Grant.

As young carers, these pupils require different types of support to other disadvantaged pupils (see Step 6 Tool 1: Checklist of support young carers may need). It is important that schools identify pupils who have caring responsibilities in order to ensure effective use of this funding stream.

Research suggests there could be up to 80 young carers in a secondary school of 1,000 pupils.

For the funding made available to just 6 pupils through the Pupil Development Grant you could achieve all of the following and improve the educational outcomes for this vulnerable group in your school.

**A Young Carers School Operational Lead**

Pupil Development Grant funding could be used to award a Teaching and Learning Responsibility (TLR) payment to a classroom teacher who takes on the duties involved in being the Young Carers School Operational Lead (see Step 4: Introducing a Young Carers School Operational Lead).

Cost: TLR payment for additional responsibilities = £2,535 (minimum).

* 1. **Development of school literature and website**

Schools should ensure that printed and online information is up to date, and transparent about how the school communicates with, and supports, its pupils who are young carers, and their families (see Step 8: Raising awareness of pupils and families about young carers). This good practice engenders a healthy school environment where young carers and families feel supported, and better identification of pupils with caring responsibilities can take place. The development of this information could be coordinated and managed by the Young Carers School Operational Lead.

Cost: £200 (nominal administration costs / IT costs).

* 1. **Coordinating a weekly support group for young carers**

A weekly peer support group for young carers can be invaluable (see Step 6 Tool 2: Running a peer support group for young carers). Groups can meet after school, or during lunch times to enable more young carers to attend. Young carers can socialise with and gain support from others and have access to a support worker who can provide additional advice and guidance. Groups have also been used to provide additional homework support or to learn life skills.

Cost:

* 1. Coordinated by the Young Carers Lead = no additional cost.
  2. Some young carers’ services can offer this service free to schools in the local area. Others may need to charge to cover staff costs. If this is the case, £50 per session for 40 weeks = £2,000 per annum, approximately.
  3. Refreshments = £10 per week x 40 weeks = £400

**4. Counselling for young carers and peer mentoring**

Many schools have established peer mentoring schemes. These can be enhanced by training existing peer mentors specifically on the issues facing young carers. Alternatively, schemes for younger pupils could be developed and coordinated by older pupils who are young carers. One-to-one counselling in schools can also be helpful for young carers experiencing difficulties at school and/or at home. Cost: variable

**5. Staff and governor training**

All staff and school governors need to understand the issues young carers face (see Step 1: Gaining an understanding about young carers, Step 3: Securing commitment of school leaders and Step 7: Raising awareness of school staff about young carers). To achieve this, training should be embedded within the school’s programme for professional development.

Cost:

* 1. Training by the Young Carers School Operational Lead could be included as part of their role = no additional cost.
  2. Some young carers’ services can offer training free to schools in the local area. Others may need to charge to cover costs. If this is the case, half day training = £100 - £300

**6. Schools can benefit from involving a range of local agencies to provide support.**

Many schools have benefitted from collaborative work with a local young carers’ service (see Step 6, Tool 6: Working in partnership with young carers’ services).

Young carers’ services can provide, for example:

* School drop in or weekly peer support groups
* Delivery of personal, social, health and economics education lessons and assemblies
* Staff training and awareness raising
* Supporting schools with the development and implementation of a school policy for young carers
* One-to-one support
* Young carers peer mentoring or buddying scheme
* Referral pathways into wider young carers service

Schools can also consider how they use School Nurses and/or Education Welfare to support young carers (see Step 6, Tool 5: Working with school nurses to support young carers). School Nurses are ideally positioned to play a pivotal role in the lives of young people. School nurses can help reduce the negative impact of caring on the health and well-being of young carers by ensuring that young carers are identified early and receive timely, age-appropriate information, by spotting and addressing any emerging health needs and by ensuring that young carers are accessing appropriate health services and other support.

**Further reading:**

* Welsh Government (2014)*Guidance for using the Pupil Deprivation Grant: What really works?*

This guide is intended to give schools practical advice on how to use their Pupil Deprivation Grant to best effect. It supplements the guidance for practitioners that was published in December 2013 on the Pupil Deprivation Grant 2013–2015.

* Estyn (November 2012) *Effective practice in tackling poverty and* *disadvantage in schools*
* The Sutton Trust Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)Toolkit

The online toolkit is an accessible summary of educational research which provides guidance for teachers and schools on how to use their resources to improve the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.



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