A Young Carer is a person aged between 7 and 18 years old who has caring responsibility for a member of their family usually a parent or sibling. The family member may be affected by a long term illness, mental health problem, substance misuse problem, physical or learning disability.

Young Carers will complete the Young Carers Statement with a support worker from the Young Carers Project.

What is a Young Carers Statement (YCS)?
The Young Carers Statement will enable Young Carers to express their feelings and needs, find out what impact their caring responsibilities have on their life and aims to support them in their caring role. It is an outcome focused approach and the form focuses around the 8 areas of the outcome My Star – physical health, where you live, being safe, relationships, feelings & behaviours, friends, confidence & self esteem, education & learning.

The Statement approach does not only look at what may be available through services requiring a social work resource but also looks at what is available through early and preventative services, for example third sector, education, health, leisure services etc.

The Young Carers Statement will ensure that the Young Carers needs are taken into consideration and not to judge their ability to care or the way in which they carry out their caring role. However it is hoped that if any Young Carer is carrying out inappropriate caring tasks this will be highlighted. Alternatives can then be considered aiming to reduce the impact and allow them to be a child or young person first and foremost.

For further information contact Young Carers Project 01387 248600.
Identification of Young Carers (Everyone's responsibility)

All new Young Carers registered with the project will complete a ‘Getting To Know You’ form with support staff.

From the ‘Getting To Know You’ form a full statement will be completed if the need is identified.

Form signed by Young Carer and include consent from parent or guardian to share information

Young Carers Statement Activity Plan will be shared with professionals/family members identified by Young Carer

To be reviewed by Young Carer and Support Worker at an agreed time
1. It is everyone’s responsibility to consider the needs of Young Carers.

2. The Young Carer journey will have a consistent approach.

3. The needs of Young Carers and of the family as a whole are considered - understand the full picture.

4. Young Carers are encouraged to identify and develop their own solutions with empathy, support and empowerment.

5. Young Carers wellbeing and quality of life will be valued.

6. Young Carers Statement results in a co-produced future action plan for the Young Carer.

7. Young Carers are treated fairly and diversity is valued.