

Agenda Item No 7(d)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

20 January 2015

**Report of the Acting Strategic Director for
Children & Younger Adults**

**Proposed Consultation on Meeting the Needs of Young Carers in
Derbyshire (Children and Young People)**

1. Purpose of Report

- To seek approval to undertake consultation on options for the provision of support services to young carers from 1 April 2016.
- To inform Cabinet of changes introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014 which concern support for young carers and inform the consultation.
- To advise Cabinet of relevant national and local research.

2. Information and Analysis

Local Authorities across the country are facing significant financial challenges which, for Derbyshire, represent a cut to its budget of £157m over the next 5 years.

In order to meet this target, Cabinet will be invited to review all contracts and review every service when the opportunity arises to see whether that service is now affordable. Cabinet will be guided in its decision making by the priorities contained within the new Council Plan.

In 1996, Derbyshire County Council commissioned Action for Children to deliver young carer services. It has successfully tendered for and delivered the contract continuously from 1996. The annual cost to Derbyshire County Council is £115,000. The Clinical

Commissioning Groups contribute an additional £35,000 to make a contract value of £150,000 per annum. Action for Children, through locally raised cash or “in kind” donations, contributes on average an additional £13,000 per annum to the service area.

The young carers’ contract provides for a service to 120 young carers per annum across the county. It consists of assessment, one to one and group support, family days, and inter-agency liaison on behalf of young carers. In addition, Multi-Agency Teams, Children and Families Social Care teams, and Adult Care contribute to the landscape of young carer provision.

The contract allows for an extension of up to two years between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2017. The contract is being extended to 31 March 2016 to allow sufficient time to review and re-commission services, particularly in light of changes introduced in the Children and Families Act 2014 and Care Act 2014 which come into force on 1 April 2015. The Clinical Commissioning Groups has committed to maintain its £35,000 of funding in 2015/16.

Cabinet is therefore now invited to commission a Stage 1 Young Carers consultation to help inform proposals as to the best way to deliver effective and cost efficient services compliant with legislation in the future.

This consultation will form part of wider engagement work that is being led by Adult Care to update the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers’; an all-age strategy that is being reviewed in the light of new statutory duties contained in the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014 and financial constraints. Any proposals will then be subject to a further report to Cabinet to authorise further consultation on the then emerging proposals.

National Research

The National Carers Trust published statistics sourced from the 2011 national census which estimate Derbyshire’s young carer population to be 1,494 children and young people aged between five and fifteen years of age. Derbyshire’s Information Management team estimates there are a further 149 resident young carers aged between 16 and 18, making a total of 1,643 young carers at any one time. Census data reveals a young carer population rise of 10% over the last decade.

Multiple influential research studies conclude that most young carers do not receive an adequate needs assessment or relevant services. Overall the negative impact on education equates to a point score reduction equivalent to 9 GCSE grades. In turn this promotes lifelong diminished opportunities and earning potential.

The influential 2013 young carers Children Society report "Hidden from View" provides national data on the volume, age and needs of young carers, and the recipients of young carers' support. The national average time commitment to caring by young carers is 3 hours per week, but can exceed 50 hours per week. The prevalence of young carers and time committed each week to caring increases with age.

National Figures Extrapolated to Derbyshire to Estimate Volume and Profile Activity

Estimated number of 5 - 18 year old young carers in Derbyshire	1643	
Profile of the Recipient of Young Carer Support	Derbyshire Volume	Derbyshire Percentage of Total Volume
provide sibling care	838	51%
support a parent	460	28%
support a grandparent	197	12%
support another person	148	9%
Profile of Need Prompting Young Carer Role		
care for someone with a physical health problem	822	50%
care for a person with a mental health problem	476	29%
care for someone with a learning difficulty	279	17%
care for someone with a sensory impairment	49	3%
Age of Young Carers		
5 to 7 years	99	6%
8 to 10 years	115	7%
10 to 14 years	674	41%
15 years	214	13%
16 to 17 years	542	33%
Young Carer Time Commitment		
up to 5 hours per week	1019	62%
5 to 15 hours per week	493	30%

15 to 30 hours per week	82	5%
30 hours plus per week	49	3%

Legislative Changes Relevant to Young Carers in the Children and Families Act 2014

The main changes relevant to young carers in the Children and Families Act are as follows:

1. The local authority must take "reasonable steps" to identify "the extent to which" there are young carers in their area with needs for support.
2. On identifying need, the local authority will be required to assess. The requirement prior to the Children and Families Act was to assess only in response to a request.
3. The right to assessment is extended to all young carers under age 18 regardless of whom they care for, the type of care provided or frequency of care. This is a change from the previous requirement to be providing substantial care regularly and be under the age of 16.
4. It is clarified that the definition of care includes providing practical or emotional support to another person. The emotional category is introduced in the Children and Families Act.
5. The local authority must provide the appropriate links between the requirements in children's and adults' legislation to enable it to combine the assessment of a young carer with an assessment of the person they care for.
6. The local authority is allowed to combine a young carer's needs assessment with an assessment of the person cared for, if both parties agree. This allows a young carer's assessment to be combined with an assessment of the adult's needs for care and support. The assessment must involve the young carer, the parents and the person cared for
7. Effective carer transition arrangements are required at the interface between children's services and Adult Care.
8. The assessment must take account of the wishes of the young carer to participate in education or training, work and engage in recreation.

9. The local authority will be required to provide a copy of the assessment to the parent and young carer, and also other parties on the request of the young carer or parent.
10. The assessment must include a statement as to whether the local authority considers the young carer to be a "Child in Need" as defined under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
11. Where the person cared for by the young carer is a child, the written record of the assessment must state whether that child is considered to be a Child in Need.
12. If an assessment has already occurred under alternative relevant legislation and circumstances have not changed, a new assessment is not required.
13. Existing rights for young carers from the Carers Recognition and Services Act 1995 and the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 will be inserted into Part 3 of the Children Act 1989.

Stage 1 Consultation Proposal

Given national developments it is an appropriate time to review current service provision and for consultation to be undertaken.

It is recommended that a consultation takes place over a 12 week period to allow sufficient time for a broad range, and a sufficient number, of local young carers and those they care for to participate in the consultation.

An on-line and paper questionnaire will be developed to capture key information from young carers and their families. The questionnaire will seek to identify use and satisfaction with current services, as well as identify future opportunities to improve services in line with the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014. It is anticipated that by using a variety of channels e.g. promotion through social media channels, posting on Derbyshire County Council web sites, promotion through the youth service to reach a wide audience of young people, placing when possible on school forum agendas, and making available in libraries and GP surgeries that the Council will reach young carers and those they care for not previously known to CAYA, Adult Care or Action for Children.

Alongside the questionnaire, focus groups will be undertaken to gain a more detailed understanding of matters such as participants' views on current services, how families' needs are met, and future

service provision. Focus group sample selection will be based on self-referral through a question included on the questionnaire and by asking front line workers to promote the opportunity to existing service users. The number of focus groups will be informed by the number expressing an interest in participating.

The on-going consultation with known young carers will continue, but expand to include one to one interviews with both young carers, and adults cared for. A cross section sample of young carers and those cared will be identified and approached with a request for interview. The number will be informed by the volume expressing an interest in participating. The adult engagement stakeholder team, health and wellbeing (schools), CAYA commissioning and CAYA training section will undertake interviews to both inform the overarching consultation and on-going work in their sections in response to the Children and Families Act.

It is proposed that the consultation occurs between 1 February 2015 and 30 April 2015, and that the consultation findings and officer recommendations for a Stage 2 proposal are reported to Cabinet in June 2015. There will then be a need for consultations on the proposals and for an equality impact assessment to be completed prior to any final decisions being made.

3. Financial Considerations

The young carer's contract will be extended from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 at a cost to DCC of £115,000 which will continue to be met from CAYA's revenue budget. Clinical Commissioning Groups will contribute a further £35,000.

4. Legal and Human Rights Considerations

The Council has a duty to conduct appropriate consultation with people and agencies that may be affected by changes in policy and procedure. The consultation process should be tailored to consider the needs of the persons being consulted to enable them to participate fully and equally in this process.

5. Equality Consideration

An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken in order that the Council may have regard to its human rights obligations when making a final decision in the light of the consultation process. In addition to young carers it will be necessary to consider the impact of any changes on the adults and siblings cared for by the Derbyshire young carer population.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, HR, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Background Papers

None

8. Key Decision

No

9. Is it required that the Call-In period be waived?

No.

10. Acting Strategic Director's Recommendations

That Cabinet approval is given to:

- 10.1 Conduct a Stage 1 consultation with service users and stakeholders on options for the provision of young carer services from 1 April 2016
- 10.2 Receives further reports following this consultation and the development of proposals for the future.

Ian Johnson, Acting Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults