

Responses to Key Lines of Enquiry Torbay Carers' Strategy

The Council ran a trial using technology with young people who were carers, how has this gone and is this being rolling this out further?

I'm afraid that no-one in Young Carers or Young Adult Carer's Services knows about a technology trial with Young Carers. Within Carers Services we piloted a scheme for Carers aged 16+ to have up to 3-month's loan of equipment to them / the person that they care for, if that supported their caring role. The feedback from Carers was very positive so we have continued to fund this supported with money from ICB Urgent and Emergency care to support discharge from hospital / prevent admission.

How have young carers been identified and what assurance can be given that as many young carers as possible have been identified?

Young Carers can be identified and referred to the service by anyone as long as consent has been sought. We receive referrals from schools, parents/guardians, Children's Services teams, GP surgeries, Adult Services, mental health and addiction services, VCS partners etc. We follow the guidance of eligibility being 'Young carers are children and young people under 18 years old, who look after a member of the family who is sick, disabled, has mental health problems, or has a drugs or alcohol problem. The young carer may be the sole carer or be supporting another family member in care tasks'. In Torbay we often find that young carers have caring responsibilities for multiple family member.

The Young Carers Service (YCS) works closely with referrers and takes part in awareness raising events and undertakes actions such as attending public events, attending parent evenings, regular correspondence with Head Teachers, contributing regularly to the Directors bulletin and using social media (@youthhubtorbay).

What support is there for Young Carers to give them access to activities outside their caring role?

The Young Carers Service runs regular break and lunch clubs and has a regular presence in secondary schools across the Bay and are developing on this approach with primary schools. (We currently have 4 support workers of which 2 focus on secondary aged young carers and 2 focussed on primary aged young carers). We also have a community based approach when working with young carers that are Electively Home Educated or are not actively attending school.

We run a regular group for young carers 12-18 years and a regular group for 8-12 year olds. We also run activities during holiday periods, including half-terms. We receive support from local funders and partners to deliver activities, including regular whole family events.

We assist with lifts or taxi's for young carers to ensure they can attend any out of school activities/groups.

How are we ensuring that those who assist people with a learning disability and those who have a learning disability who are young carers are being supported?

Following every young carer referral, an assessment is undertaken by a member of the team and they talk to both the parent and young person to fully understand the situation in the home, the needs of both the person/people being cared for and the needs of the young carer and the caring role undertaken by the young carer. We also speak with the referrer to gain a better understanding from their perspective if required.

As long as the young person has a caring role, then they will be classed as a young carer – this includes those who may have additional needs themselves. Examples of potential care responsibilities are below – this is not an exhausted list;

- **Practical care** - Cooking, Cleaning, Shopping.
- **Personal care** - Washing, dressing or toileting.
- **Family responsibilities** - Managing money and household budgets, Completing forms and/or household responsibilities.
- **Medical care** - Reminding the cared for to take medication, administering medication, giving injections etc.
- **Emotional care** - Listening and/or talking to the cared for person about their feelings, concerns and difficulties.
- **Care of younger siblings** - Helping to look after a sibling because their parent/s are unable to, or need assistance at times.

More information can be found here: [Young Carers Service - Torbay Council](#)