

Local Authority engagement with the Young Carers in Schools Programme

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Session overview:

- Why young carers need support in education
- What support Young Carers in Schools provides
- What are the benefits to schools, local authorities and young carers services to engaging with the programme
- Examples of how local authorities and young carers services have been involved to date
- Key next steps you can take

Young carers experience particular challenges and demands that impact on their capacity to enjoy and achieve in education:

- [BBC research](#) suggests as many as one in 12 secondary aged pupils are young carers.
- 35% of young carers said that nobody in their school was aware of their caring role.
- 27% of young carers miss school or experience educational difficulties
- They have significantly lower attainment at GCSE level – the difference between 9 Cs and 9 Ds
- A quarter of young carers said they were bullied at school because of their caring role
- They are more likely than the national average to be not in education, employment or training at 16-19.

Young Carers in Schools is a free England-wide initiative that makes it as easy as possible for schools to identify and support young carers and awards good practice.



Professional
Development and
online support



The need for a whole school approach



A whole school approach is crucial to meeting young carers' needs across Ofsted judgement areas.

- Enabling identification
- Ensuring young carers feel confident and able to access support
- Enabling effective and appropriate sharing of information
- Delivering appropriate flexibilities and interventions to raise outcomes.

Young Carers in Schools programme enables schools to...

- Identify manageable steps to improve outcomes
- Get recognition and demonstrate to Ofsted you meet young carers' needs (specifically mentioned in the Common Inspection Framework, 2015)



Benefits of utilising the tools and support available through YCiS in your local area

- Supporting local authority-wide identification of young carers
- Drawing on England-wide best practice
- Effective use of local time and resources
- Encouraging multi-agency working in your local working
- Linking in with national drivers for change for young carers in schools

What have we heard about YCiS?

100% positive feedback on events and webinars

I feel like after many years of trying to engage schools, [the Young Carers in Schools Professional Development event in York] was a real step forward”. -Liz Roberts, Senior Young Carer Worker, York Carers Centre]

“I’ve had experience of using and working with lots of other programmes and I have found them not to be as supportive or as useful as the tools available through Young Carers in Schools – Asst. Director of Inclusion, Milthorpe School York.

“inspirational” “excellent” “hugely informative” – school staff.

Key findings....

What young carers say about support in schools.

For me I am stress free and calmer because of the better support in school and the support group

Schools are more understanding, key people know

My school signed up because I gave a speech, many schools in my area have signed up.

I know my schools system has let me down as a young carer – I live it

Information about me is not transferred to my next teacher

Different ways in which LAs and YC services have embedded YCiS in their ways of working to date:

- Award schemes/inclusion quality marks/healthy schools
- Launch events
- 1:1s/network meetings
- Developing 1 school first

Where are we now....

- 5400+ views of Step-by-step Guide
- 1000+ subscribers to termly Enewsletter
- 300+ attendees at workshops/events and 200+ views of webinars

- 400+ downloads of the Award application pack and 54 schools awarded to date

- Three Young Carers Panel held with 60+ young carers to input into the verification of awards

Next steps...

- Highlight how young carers link to schools priorities
- Utilise your authority's existing connections or programmes within schools
- Reflect YCiS tools and resources when commissioning schools engagement
- Hold an event
- Run a local network
- Include young carers as a data requirement

What are we doing to support you...



&

The
Children's
Society

- Basic resource pack
- Webinars

Coming imminently:

- Fuller resource pack
- Targeted eNewsletter
- New webinar series showcasing different local approaches to school engagement and disseminating key learning from the project



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