

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Report Title: Service Response to Children & Learning Scrutiny
Panel: Support for Young Carers

Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Councillor Mike Carr

Executive Director: Gill Rollings

Date: 14th December 2010

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present the 'Support for Young Carers' – final report from Children, Families and Learning Scrutiny Panel and the associated Action Plan.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Action Plan attached as Appendix A be endorsed.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent
Urgent report

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

5. The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Panel's review were as follows:-
- a) *To examine the key drivers behind support for young carers - such as relevant legislation or national guidance.*
 - b) *To examine support services available to young carers, particularly any dedicated service provision from the Council or other agencies.*
 - c) *To consider how young carers are identified to ensure that their support needs can be met; and also whether numbers are recorded/monitored to assist with service planning.*
 - d) *To examine accessibility to support, including whether young carers are involved in planning and decision making to ensure that their needs are met; and also to consider how effectiveness of service provision is measured.*
 - e) *To assess whether support is provided in terms of young carers' wellbeing, including in education, leisure and any respite provision.*

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6. Plans will ensure that the needs of all Young Carers are met, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds and/or with disabilities. Advocates and interpreters will be used when appropriate.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

7. The recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel are fully accepted and reflected in the Action Plan.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

8. **Financial** – There are no additional costs to the Council other than those highlighted within the Action Plan
9. **Ward Implications** – Young Carers live in all wards in Middlesbrough. The recommendations and Action Plan therefore impact equally on all wards.
10. **Legal Implications** – These are addressed at page 5 of the Panel's report

SCRUTINY CONSULTATION

11. The scrutiny panel undertook an in-depth investigation into issues around young carers and met on six occasions between 1 March and 31 August 2010 to gather evidence. The panel also visited two support groups for Middlesbrough young carers. Information was submitted by young carers, Council officers, representatives of The Junction Project and staff of Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust (PCT). The panel's final report was approved by the scrutiny panel on 23 September 2010

12. A detailed record of the topics discussed at Panel meetings, including agenda, minutes and reports, is available from the Council's Committee Management System (COMMIS), which can be accessed via the Council's website at www.middlesbrough.gov.uk.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Panel's recommendations are set out in Appendix 1, along with the proposed Action Plan. It is recommended that the Action Plan be endorsed.

REASONS

14. The Scrutiny Panel has undertaken a thorough review of issues around young carers and the Action Plan will ensure recommendations are addressed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- Reports submitted to the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 1 and 22 March, 14 April, 15 June, 8 July and 31 August 2010.
 - Children's Society Publication - 'Supporting Pupils Who Are Young Carers.'
 - HM Government Publication - 'Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families and Communities.'
 - NHS Tees Briefing - 'Carers Funding.'
 - Middlesbrough Children and Young People's Trust Document - 'Multi-Agency Protocol for Identification, Assessment and Support of Young Carers and their Families.'
 - Princess Royal Trust Publication - 'Resource Pack for Schools.'

AUTHOR: John Catron, Deputy Director, Achievement, CF&L
TEL NO: 01642 728201

Address: Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough
Website: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk>

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS – ACTION PLAN

14 DECEMBER 2010

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>1. That the issues surrounding young carers should be further highlighted and publicised in schools, both by The Junction Young Carers Project and by Middlesbrough’s Children, Families and Learning Department. In order to identify young carers as early as possible and assist in tracking progress and closing the attainment gap, the results of the scrutiny panel’s investigation should be highlighted and schools encouraged to make use of resources such as The Princess Royal Trust’s ‘Resource Pack for Schools,’ which has been developed as best practice to help schools to identify and support young carers and their families more effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘Young Carers’ will become a category of learner tracked through the Vulnerable Learners Group so that appropriate identification, intervention, tracking and monitoring takes place with evidence provided to Scrutiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DD Achievement ▪ Virtual School HT ▪ Head MIS ▪ Head of Pupil Support 	N/A	January 2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The issue of Young Carers, the resources available and the importance of improving outcomes for this vulnerable group will promoted through the SENCO network and the Designated Teacher network 			N/A
<p>2. That, in order to maximise support to young carers and make best possible use of available resources, measures are put in place to strengthen liaison and links between Children, Families and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant officers in CF&L Adult Social Care and Junction Project to meet to strengthen liaison and map out responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD Achievement 	Officer time	January 2011

<p>Learning, Adult Social Care and The Junction Project. In the first instance, and in accordance with recommended best practice, a named lead officer, with responsibility for young carers, should be identified in each of the Council service areas.</p>				
<p>3. That urgent consideration is given to the uncertain funding position surrounding The Junction's Young Carers Project after March 2011. This should include how the authority can ensure that its obligations towards young carers can continue to be fulfilled, for example by assisting the Junction in bidding for grant funding, such as from the Government's forthcoming Youth in Focus programme, or by considering how Carers' Grant funding received from Adult Social Care is allocated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding considerations to be reviewed through CFL when implications of Comprehensive Spending Review, Schools Bill and SEN Green paper have been published ▪ Liaison group mentioned above will to consider funding possible bids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DD Achievement ▪ AD Comm. & Resources 	<p>Unknown at present</p>	<p>January 2011</p>
<p>4. That the feasibility of incorporating some element of support for young carers at the My Place development in Middlesbrough is explored - for example by promoting its use among young carers as a social facility, by advertising support services available, or by training staff in assisting or identifying new young carers so that appropriate referrals can be made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MyPlace organisers to be contacted in order to promote as a facility for Young Carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DD Achievement 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>November 2010</p>
<p>5. That the possible use of Fleet Services transport and/or Ayresome Community Transport, by The Junction's Young</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home – School transport to be contacted to enquire into possible support for Young Carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DD Achievement ▪ AD Comm. & Resources 	<p>tbc</p>	<p>November 2010</p>

<p>Carer's Project is explored and incorporated in Children, Families and Learning's forthcoming review of home to school transport. Other possible sources of transport provision should also be explored, such as funding from minor grants schemes.</p>				
<p>6. That the results of Social Care's consultation exercise with young carers, undertaken as part of the department's work on refreshing the National Carers' Strategy, are taken into account as part of the process and, where appropriate, used to assist in future service planning for young carers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaison Group (CFL, Social Care, Junction) to consider the consultation plan and formulate a response which is communicated to Scrutiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DD Achievement 	<p>Officer time</p>	<p>December, 2010</p>
<p>7. That NHS Middlesbrough is contacted with a view to ensuring that it continues to be involved in the issue of supporting young carers, particularly given the earlier indication that this was an area that was likely to benefit from additional resources in future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact to be made with NHS to determine possibilities of additional future resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DD Achievement ▪ Joint Comm. Manager with CFL/NHS 	<p>Officer time</p>	<p>November 2010</p>