

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

Review of the Young Carers Service

The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee reviewed the young carers offer on the 12th November 2018.

The meeting was attended by the All Ages Carers Commissioning Officer and a Support Officer from the Young Carers Service. A young carer also attended to share with the committee her experiences. Through briefings and questioning, Members were provided information including:

- There were approximately 600 young carers, aged between 5 and 24, known to the Young Carers Service in the Borough.
- Young Carers undertake a variety of tasks, such as practical tasks around the home, managing medication, emotional support and personal care.
- The levels of support (Tiers 1 to 3) offered to young carers.
- The range of support available, including one to one support, weekly clubs and befriending sessions.
- The views and experiences of the young carer who attended.
- The experience of young people in school and the identification in schools of young carers.

Members were concerned by a number of issues:

- The lack of consistency in schools on the recording and monitoring of young people.
- The lack of training in schools in raising awareness of young carers.
- Limited counselling available for young carers.
- Limited peer support.

Members felt this was an important issue and noted its commitment to young carers in Telford & Wrekin. The Committee is recommending that:

- 1. All Schools should include a question about young carers on their enrolment form.**
- 2. Link governors should be established in every school for young carers.**
- 3. The counselling offer for young carers should be further developed so that young carers are offered more sessions, without a long wait.**
- 4. A system of peer support should be developed.**

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