

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Young Carers Interim Joint Protocol	
<b>Report to:</b>	Children's Partnership Board	
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	
<b>Relevant Director:</b>	Helen Blackman, Director of Children's Integrated Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> ALL
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Tajinder Madahar 0115 8765027 Sara-Jane Brighthouse 0115 8764875	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>		
<b>Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority or priorities:</b>		
<b>Safeguarding and supporting children and families:</b> Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people:</b> From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Supporting achievement and academic attainment:</b> All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing:</b> More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>		
<p>The law changed for Young Carers from April 2015 with the introduction of the Care Act 2014 and the Children &amp; Families Act 2014, which means the Local Authority has a legal requirement to undertake and record a young carer's needs assessment as noted below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Care Act 2014</b> - A duty to consider the needs of children living in households where there is an adult who has a disability or impairment that requires help or care as part of a whole family assessment.</li> <li>• <b>Children &amp; Families Act 2014</b> - Young Carers entitled to an assessment of their support needs.</li> </ul> <p>This report sets out Nottingham City Local Authority's response to meet the statutory duty by establishing a Young Carers Interim Joint Protocol working in partnership with Children's and Adult services, Carer's Federation- Action for Young Carers, Explore Family and Nottingham City Council Commissioning services.</p> <p>A significant amount of work has been undertaken during 2015 / 16 to meet this duty and the stakeholders meet regularly to review ways of working and the next steps.</p> <p>The Interim Joint Protocol was presented to the Children and Adult's Leadership team in December 2015 for approval and this was granted pending reference to the regional Memorandum of Understanding for work with Young Carers and advice to present at the Children's Partnership Board.</p> <p>The protocol is due to be reviewed in November 2016 and presented to Children's &amp; Adult</p>		

Leadership Team for final approval.	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
<b>1</b>	The Children's Partnership to approve the Interim Joint Protocol between Children's & Adult services and Action for Young Carers.

## **1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

### **Context**

This report is to present the Young Carers Interim Joint protocol which sets out the pathway for support for young carers and the responsibilities of Nottingham City Council Children and Adult Services and the main commissioned provider, Carers Federation- Action for Young Carers (AYC) in light of the Children and Families Act and the Care Act 2014.

This document is an interim protocol with ongoing development work to establish a 'Think Family' approach to the identification, assessment and provision of support to young carers, their siblings and families. To prevent crises arising through early identification and intervention, and for assessment and support for families to be combined where appropriate. It supports the Memorandum of Understanding 'Working Together to Support Young Carers and their Families' to aid joint work between Children and Adult Services and Action for Young Carers.

For the Local Authority to meet the legal requirements to undertake and record a young carer's needs assessment, an interim solution is in place.

### **Legislation**

The law changed for Young Carers from April 2015.

#### **Care Act 2014**

A duty to consider the needs of children living in households where there is an adult who has a disability or impairment that requires help or care as part of a whole family assessment

#### **Children & Families Act 2014**

Young Carers are entitled to an assessment of their support needs. The law changed for Young Carers from April 2015.

### **What this means for local authorities**

The legislation affects both Children's and Adult services.

The local authority must ensure that a "Young Carer's needs assessment" is carried out to decide the amount, nature and type of care the young carer provides or intends to provide. It must also consider the impact on the young carers and their family's needs if the young carer or their parents request this or it is identified that the young carer is negatively affected by their caring role.

All circumstances should be taken into account when assessing the tasks the young carer is performing or intends to perform and whether they are excessive and inappropriate for the young carer's age, sex, wishes and feelings.

The assessment must adopt a 'Think family' approach. The young carer's needs assessment can be combined with any other assessment of needs for support of the young carer, the person cared for or a member of the young carer's family.

### **Nottingham's Response**

In Nottingham City, our approach has been to work closely with stakeholders in Children's and Adult services and with the main commissioned organisation Carers Federation Action For Young Carers (AYC), as well as Explore Family and the local authority's Commissioning team, to develop an Interim Young Carers Joint Protocol between Children, Adults and Action for Young Carers.

AYC is the main commissioned service in Nottingham City to assess family needs, and have an established 'Think family' approach to their assessment for the Cared For and the Young Carer.

AYC provide 1:1 work with young carers, group work and activities, events and trips, link with schools and local services. AYC has significant impact in their work with Young Carers.

Advice from NCC legal team is that the current children's assessments and Common Assessment Framework (CAF) do not meet requirements for the Young Carer's Needs Assessment. To address this issue for Children's services to be compliant, guidance notes have been written and attached to Children's Assessments in the case management recording system CareFirst for Targeted Family Support and Children's Social Care teams.

Adult's services have revised their assessment form in CareFirst to meet the requirements.

The protocol was presented to Children & Adult Leadership team in December 2015 and was approved with a note to cross reference this work with the regional Memorandum of Understanding and advice to present to the Children's Partnership Board.

The protocol has been in operation for the last six months. In May 2016, the group met to review how the protocol was working in practice with AYC, Adults and Children's services representatives.

The group reviewed the protocol very positively and gave examples of working really well in practice for the identification and assessment of a young carer and their family and referral to the right support and services. It was noted that:

- Work between Adult services and AYC has been really successful and has strengthened ways of working between the services.
- Amending the protocol made it clear that where Children's Services identify a Young Carer, this will also be referred to AYC for a Young Carer's assessment to provide support;
- Strengthening of work between Explore Family and AYC, where Explore Family identify a Young Carer, AYC and Explore Family will jointly undertake a visit and assessment.

### **Next steps**

Children's long term work will be the development of a Young Carer's Needs Assessment in the new case management system with Liquid Logic through work on Project Evolution.

Performance measures for the identification of Young Carers will be monitored and reported quarterly.

Ongoing development work to meet legal requirements for Young Carers across Children's, Adults and AYC is planned. The interim protocol will be reviewed in November 2016 and presented at Children's and Adults Leadership team for final approval.

## **2. RISKS**

By not undertaking the activity and producing a local joint protocol for the identification, assessment of Young Carers, there would be a risk that Nottingham City Local Authority would not meet its statutory duty.

By undertaking the activity, the protocol ensures that the Local Authority is compliant with the statutory legalisation set out in the Care Act 2014 and Children's Families Act 2014. The protocol sets out Nottingham City's local arrangements and processes to meet the Local Authority's duty.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Advice sought from Lorraine Buckberry Children's & Adult Legal Services, July 2015 by the Commissioning team.

## **5. CLIENT GROUP**

Young Carers and Cared For families in Nottingham City.

## **6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

The work is targeted at young carers and their families of all backgrounds to ensure that support and services is effectively identified and assessed appropriately.

## **7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

The effective delivery of the Young Carers Needs Assessment and Interim Joint Protocol across Children's, Adults and Carers Federation Action for Young Carers is essential to achieving all of the Children and Young People's plan objectives and priorities.

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

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