

30 March 2015**Agenda Item: 9**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

YOUNG CARERS

Purpose of the Report

1. The report updates Committee regarding the work with and support to young carers in Nottinghamshire.
2. The report also seeks approval to establish 3.5 fte temporary Community Care Officers for Young Carers.

Information and Advice

3. The aims identified in the Young Carers Strategy for Nottinghamshire were to: minimise the extent to which children and young people take on caring roles that are inappropriate or detrimental to them; ensure there was adequate support for those children and young people who are adversely affected by the illness or disability of their parents/carers/siblings; and ensure disabled adults were adequately supported in their parenting role.
4. During 2014 staff in Targeted Support, which is part of Children, Families and Cultural Services, have worked with young carers who are caring for siblings aged up to 18 years. 198 assessments and reviews have been completed of young carers during 2014. This compares to 373 assessments and reviews in 2013/14 when there were also specific staff in adult services to focus on young carers.
5. Young Carer Workers and staff in assessment teams use the young carer's assessments. Questionnaires are also completed to identify the positive and negative impacts of caring (PAN OC – Positive & Negative Outcomes of Caring) and the MACA (Multi-dimensional Assessment of Caring Activities) which provides an index of the amount of caring activity and tasks undertaken alongside the assessment lead to the allocation of a personal budget. Personal budgets are being offered to meet the needs of young people in the form of Direct Payments. In the south of the County there is also a service to support young carers operating across Nottingham City, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe provided by The Carers Federation.
6. The Care Act 2014 brings additional responsibilities in relation to carers. The Carers work stream of the Care Act is in Nottinghamshire considering support to carers and to young carers. The majority of young carer assessments have been completed by young carer assessment workers and by Targeted Support. Whilst mainstream workers in all teams

will continue to assess and offer support to young carers, it is recognised that the pressures of other work is impacting on the time available to spend with young carers. The number of young carer assessments completed in 2014 in relation to those caring for an adult has decreased, whilst the assessment of those caring for siblings (under 18 years) has increased. In order to ensure that there is ongoing support once the Care Act comes into force in April 2015 and that reviews of young carer needs can be completed, a 0.5 fte Community Care Officer per district is identified as being required.

7. Training will be provided to staff in relation to the Care Act. E-learning is also available to staff in relation to undertaking carer assessments.

Other Options Considered

8. Support to Young Carers through Targeted Support for those caring for a person under 18 years have been developed and strengthened. However, this is focused on those caring for siblings up to the age of 18 years and does not have the resources to undertake assessments of all young carers who are caring for adult family members. Within Adult Services mainstream staff working with younger adults are now more aware of young carers and have undertaken some assessments and reviews, particularly where the adult being cared for is also receiving a service (for example, a parent with disabilities). However, whenever there are no specifically designated staff to work with young carers the number of assessments and reviews decreases and the impact of the Care Act may further reduce time of existing mainstream staff to spend time with young carers who are often in full time education and can therefore only be seen in the evenings or during school holidays.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. Young carers become vulnerable when the level of care giving and responsibility is excessive. The evidence from the last 3 years supports the need for some specific staff time in each district to focus on young carers' needs. It takes on average between 4 to 6 hours and 10 to 12 hours in more complex cases to complete assessments. There is a concern that adult social care staff will not have sufficient capacity to conduct the volume of young carers' assessments when the Care Act is implemented. Current research suggests that the majority of young carers support adults with physical disabilities; with adults with Mental Health needs being the second largest group which is spread across all districts of the County.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. The total cost of the proposal is £109,204 per year including on-costs and mileage to be met from the disabled parents and young carers budget:

3.5 fte Community Care Officer posts at grade 5 spc 28.

Human Resources Implications

12. The 3.5 fte Community Care Officer posts will provide opportunities for existing NCC employees to focus on young carers.

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

13. A joint protocol is in place across Children's & Adult Social Care giving clear guidance on respective responsibilities. Adult teams will co-ordinate assessments where there is no indication of child protection or child safeguarding concerns. Where there is a risk of significant harm to a child, Children's Services will co-ordinate the assessment.

Ways of Working Implications

14. The proposed posts will be based as follows:

- 1 fte Community Care Officer - at Sherwood Energy Village
- 1 fte Community Care Officer - at Lawn View House
- 1.5 fte Community Care Officer at Sir John Robinson Way.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the update on the work with and support to young carers in Nottinghamshire be noted
- 2) the establishment of 3.5 fte Community Care Officers (Grade 5, scp 24-28) with approved carer status be approved as detailed in the report.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 18/03/15)

15. The Adult Social Care and Health Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KAS 20/03/15)

16. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 11 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Young Carers Strategy for Nottinghamshire
Support for disabled parents and young carers protocol

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.