

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADULT SOCIAL  
CARE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE****YOUNG CARERS STRATEGY UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides the Council with an update on the Young Carers Strategy, which was approved by County Council in September 2011.

**Information and Advice**

2. Reducing the burden on young carers, thereby enabling them to enjoy their childhood without pressures and responsibilities beyond their years, is a key priority for the County Council.
3. The County Council established a multi agency Disabled Parents and Young Carers Steering Group in 2009. Also in 2009, the Council commissioned Family Action (a national charity) to provide a Young Carers Service in Nottinghamshire. The Young Carers Service works with a range of statutory, voluntary and independent sector partners with the primary aim of reducing the burden of care on children and young people aged from 5 to 24 by:
  - Raising awareness of the issues young carers have to deal with
  - Helping services to identify young carers and young adult carers
  - Assessing the individual needs of young carers and their families
  - Offering training to professionals to improve the level and quality of support offered to young carers
  - Supporting services to make sure that they have procedures and protocols in place that take account of young carers
  - Providing tailored support, advice and assistance directly to young carers
  - Offering positive activities to give young carers a break from their caring role
  - Offering support to young adults aged 18-24 with caring responsibilities.
4. The number of young carers engaged with face to face by the Young Carers Service provided by Family Action increased from 197 to 221 between 2011 and 2012, an 11% increase.
5. The contract with Family Action is now being extended until October 2014, with the Young Carers Service to be co-located with the Targeted Support Service Locality Teams from 1 April 2013. This model of co-location has been

developed within Targeted Support over the last two years, with the intention of reducing duplication across services and improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

6. In April 2011, Cabinet agreed an additional revenue investment of £1.8 million (initially £900,000 for the first year) to support and improve the lives of young carers and their families. This investment has supported, in the main, personal budgets for disabled parents to reduce their dependency on the support of young carers. Personal budgets are also being offered to meet the needs and outcomes of young carers in the form of direct payments.
7. The Council has used assessment tools developed by Nottingham University to assess the impact of caring responsibilities on individual young carers and carers needs. The Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection (ASCH&PP) department has also assessed the needs of parents and of young carers up to the age of 24 years.
8. Between November 2011 and December 2012, 204 young carers' assessments were completed by ASCH&PP. Table 1 below illustrates the increased take up of personal budgets by young carers over the last fifteen months. The assessments are reviewed with the young carers after four and twelve months, with reviews completed to date indicating a reduction in the negative impact of caring on these children and young people. The cost of the increases outlined can be contained within existing budgets.

**Table 1** Personal budgets agreed for young carers since October 2011

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Number of Personal Budgets</b>	<b>Cumulative Total</b>
October – December 2011	11	11
January – March 2012	14	25
April – June 2012	26	51
July – September 2012	67	118
October – December 2012	86	204

9. Since September 2011, there have been numerous briefings for front line staff and managers to raise awareness of the Young Carers Service and the funding available to support disabled parents and young carers.
10. A key feature of this work has been the development of closer working arrangements between the Children, Families and Cultural Services and Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection Departments which has significantly helped in raising the profile of young carers.

### **Young Carers Strategy for Nottinghamshire**

11. The Young Carers Strategy aims to promote and improve the health and well-being of carers and their families by preventing and protecting children and young people from undertaking excessive and inappropriate caring roles and responsibilities, and preventing the continuation of inappropriate caring.

12. The Strategy sets out the ambition of the County Council and its partners for young carers:

***Young carers should have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve their full potential. We want to ensure that young carers are actively protected from excessive or inappropriate caring and that parents and other family members are effectively supported. There will be a clear and co-ordinated means of identifying and assessing children and young people with caring responsibilities who are providing regular care and support for someone in their family.***

13. The Young Carers Strategy for Nottinghamshire identified a number of key development areas:

- Promoting Early Identification
- Assessment
- Safeguarding
- Schools and Young Carers
- Health of Young Carers
- Information, Advice & Advocacy

14. For each of these development areas an action plan was agreed and monitored by the Disabled Parents and Young Carers Steering Group each quarter since September 2011. There has been progress made in all the development areas of the Strategy's action plan over the last 18 months. For example, seven schools/colleges have completed the Young Carers Quality Standard with another six in the process of working towards it.

15. At the beginning of 2013, a review of the Strategy and its action plan was undertaken by the Steering Group. This review has included feedback from young carers and partners through a stakeholder event held in January 2013.

16. Following this review the Steering Group has recommended that no substantive changes are made to the Young Carers Strategy. The Strategy's ambition, key aims, outcomes, and development areas remain fit for purpose and provide a clear direction for the ongoing work of the County Council and its partners with young carers and their families.

17. However, as a result of the review, the Steering Group will update the Strategy's action plan for 2013-2014. The review identified the following issues as priorities to be included in the revised action plan:

- The development of an identity card for young carers
- The provision of training for young carers who are required to assist with personal care and support for their parents/carers and for the administration of medication by young carers
- The inclusion of information about young carers in training delivered by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

- The review of the referral processes to services for young carers and their families to ensure access is swift and easy
- The development of the Young Carers Quality Standards pack for schools and colleges in Nottinghamshire
- The engagement of Clinical Commissioning Groups around health issues that affect young carers.

### **Other Options Considered**

18. A Service Review of the Young Carers Service has been considered, but it has been agreed to undertake this later in 2013 and to include the commissioning arrangements for the 'What about Me' Service, which works with young people who are affected by their parents' substance misuse, and who are often young carers.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

19. The implementation of the Young Carers Strategy has already led to improved levels of support being provided to young carers and their families in Nottinghamshire. The Strategy's revised action plan will continue to contribute to this development and help to enhance the levels of support provided which in turn will lead to improved outcomes for the young carers and their families.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Equalities Implications**

21. An equality impact assessment was undertaken prior to the approval of the Young Carers Strategy by County Council in September 2011 and is available as a background paper.

### **Implications for service users**

22. The Young Carers Strategy and its implementation through the revised action plan will continue to help ensure the needs of young carers and their families are identified earlier and appropriate support is provided at the earliest opportunity. It will ensure that young carers are protected from undertaking excessive and inappropriate caring roles and those parents and other family members are effectively supported. This will lead to improved outcomes for the young carers and their families.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Policy Committee notes that the recent review of the Young Carers Strategy concluded there was no need to make any substantive changes to it but that the accompanying action plan should be updated.

**Councillor Philip Owen**  
**Chairman of the Children and Young**  
**People's Committee**

**Councillor Kevin Rostance**  
**Chairman of the Adult Social Care and**  
**Health Committee**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Chris Jones  
Referral and Tracking Strategy Manager (Early Help)  
Targeted Youth Support and Youth Justice Support Service  
T: 07824 869067  
E: christopher.1.jones@nottsc.gov.uk

Sue Foster  
Project Manager, Joint Commissioning Unit  
Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection  
T: 0115 9773110  
E: sue1.foster@nottsc.gov.uk

**Constitutional Comments**

23. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

**Financial Comments (KLA 18/02/13)**

24. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

**Background Papers**

Young Carers Strategy for Nottinghamshire – report to County Council on 22 September 2011  
Equality Impact Assessment - September 2011  
Support for disabled parents and young carers – protocol dated July 2011  
Business Case 'Disabled Parents and Young Carers' v1.1 dated 28 September 2011.

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.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0185