



CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF YOUNG CARERS

8 JULY 2008



Membership

Cllr Mrs Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor

Cllr David Turner

Cllr Carol Viney

Ben Jackson

Corporate Core

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Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

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Young Carers

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Review set out:
 - To identify how the County Council (and its partners) may empower Young Carers (YCs) to approach the authority for help (there is a fear that they do not because conversely, they often think that they may be taken into care).
 - To achieve a change in understanding and perception around young carers.
 - To identify the gaps between provision, need/demand and availability of services.
 - To examine the social/economic/educational and health impacts of the issue.

2. The questions that the Review Group hoped to answer can be encapsulated as follows:
 1. How well does Oxfordshire do at identifying young carers?
 2. What are the main obstacles to young carers accessing support?
 3. What are the main disadvantages young carers experience that affect their health and well being outcomes?
 4. How should we assess needs, plans and co-ordinate services for young carers?
 5. How should we design effective inter-agency groups and support services for young carers?
 6. What are the best options for improving service outcomes?

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to endorse these principles (from the Young Carers Festival 2006 supported by the Children's Society, and (where appropriate) urges School Governing Bodies to adhere to them:

Oxfordshire County Council/schools should:

- 1. Recognise that the responsibility as a Young Carer (YC) can affect education and school work;**
- 2. Find out about them, what they need and how they are not like other students;**

3. Take time to find out about individual problems at home. Sometimes YCs are too embarrassed to say themselves;
4. Not automatically punish YCs if they are late. Sometimes this can't be helped because they are helping out at home;
5. Provide more support such as lunchtime drop ins and homework clubs;
6. Be flexible – giving more time and help to do homework or coursework;
7. Include information about YC and disability issues in Personal, Social Health & Sex Education lessons;
8. Let YCs phone parents to see if they are OK;
9. Make sure that there is a clear and up to date community notice board that has support info for YC and where else they can get help in the community;
10. Ensure teachers are offered training on YC and disability issues both at university and on inset days.

The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED:

1. That Annex 2 to the Review is sent to all schools and linked to the Young Carers Strategy.
2. That Oxfordshire's revised 2008 -11 Young Carers' Strategy when issued, is widely disseminated and adhered to and that the specific educational needs of young carers are addressed.
3. That the principle of a discreet single point of contact in schools is accepted and that each school in Oxfordshire should be advised to nominate a single contact member of staff with responsibility for identifying and supporting young carers and that means, such as a "Toolkit" or School Guidance pack should ensure that training, internet accessible material etc are in place to assist them in this role;
4. That a guide/protocol is developed for schools, modeled on the practices elsewhere including Gloucestershire and the Children's Society;
5. That given the rural nature of Oxfordshire and that many Young Carers have no access to rural transport, resources are made available to ensure that YCs are able to access support services;
6. That with specific reference to the dichotomy in the legislative position referred to in paragraph 49, to lobby Central Government via the Local Government Association to consider a review of legislative requirements and resources around assessments for young carers;

- 7. To consider the priority accorded by the Council to young carers; does it aspire to provide better identification of, support for and resources for young carers to make Oxfordshire the leader among its peers?**
- 8. That based on the Oxfordshire PCT's experience, to work more closely with GPs to identify previously unidentified Young Carers and ensure that they and their families receive the appropriate support;**
- 9. To explore the benefits of different staffing models for YCs such as in Hertfordshire, where they have 4 Professional Assistants for YC's centrally based and working on a locality basis, in Children, Schools and Families (the equivalent in Oxfordshire being the CYP&F Directorate);**
- 10. To:**
 - (a) endorse in principle and enable the Children's Society (by arranging a formal event), to launch the Key Principles and the Whole Family Pathway within Oxfordshire, and that both are adopted, the latter as a tool for practitioners working with YCs;**
 - (b) bid to become one of the authorities involved in The Children's Society's roll out of the development of the Key Principles of Practice – Guidance for Practitioners and the Whole-Family Pathway;**
 - (c) endorse the roll out of development to local authorities;**
- 11. To consider in detail the key features of the Children's Society work as described in this evidence and in the publications listed in the bibliography, as good strategy and practice that the County Council should wish to adhere to;**
- 12. That the Review Group RECOMMENDS joint working protocols between adult and children's services (alongside the Schools protocol referred to earlier) for Oxfordshire;**
- 13. It is desirable to achieve a link up of all the direct and indirect funding streams available on behalf of YCs, especially support from Adult Services; this is what the Children's Society seeks to do and on a local basis this is RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet from the Review;**
- 14. That following the example of Nottinghamshire, a "critical friend", likely to be The Children's Society, is invited to evaluate the progress in implementing the new Young Carers Strategy and the impact of the initiatives recommended by this Review, in two years time.**

2. INTRODUCTION

3. The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee commissioned this Review during August 2007 because of its and other County Council scrutiny committees' interests in the situation of Young Carers and the level of recognition and provision made for them. The Review Group has compiled this report and made recommendations based on its findings and analysis. We believe that the Review has achieved the objectives set out in the scoping document attached at **Annex 1**.

Setting the scene - Aims of the Review and the Review process

4. The Committee appointed Councillors Mrs Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor, David Turner, Carol Viney and Mr Ben Jackson to undertake this Review. The scoping document approved by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group on the 8th October 2007 sets out the Review's objectives and specific tasks that it set itself. The Review was carried out through primary and secondary research and a series of interviews with key witnesses.

Background

5. To begin this investigation, the Review Group sought a definition of its subject "Young Carers". The one used by the OCC Young Carers Strategy is a commonly accepted definition and we believe that it broadly suffices, although there are other definitions and other characteristics of young carers that will be described during the course of this report:

"Children and young people under the age of 18 whose life is in some way restricted because of the need to take responsibility for the care of someone who is ill, has a disability, is experiencing mental distress, or is affected by substance misuse." (Carers UK -1998).

6. At the outset of this work, the Review Group was concerned that young carers were not being identified and that there were gaps in the multi-agency approach to assessing their needs, wishes, support and the availability of suitable provision. Young carers were identified by Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee as a key topic. They wished to investigate the issues around the topic in depth.
7. There has been considerable public interest in the issue, as indicated in recent media coverage and the Review Group felt that there was an opportunity to make a distinctive impact in this area; (to date, no other authorities have undertaken a scrutiny review of this topic from any perspective other than young people's health). There is no definitive and identifiable process for carrying out an individual

assessment of the carer's rather than the cared for person's needs. There is a duty for the local authority to assess needs but not an obligation to make provision at the level of need identified. (More detail concerning the legal position on assessment is included in The Children's Society's Summary of Legislation and Guidance in **Annex 8**).

8. Among the stimuli behind this Review was the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP), its priorities and the first review of the CYPP: The priorities in the CYPP include improving educational achievement, reducing anti social behaviour including bullying; increasing participation in leisure activities, providing early practical support for vulnerable families, safeguarding children and young people who are at risk, and promoting healthy lifestyles for children and young people. These are clearly linked to the Council's Corporate priorities.
9. The priorities for Year 2 of the Plan include features that cut across Young Carers' issues:
 1. Preventative and early intervention support for children and young families at risk of harmful outcomes.
 2. Raising the educational attainment, enjoyment and achievement of all pupils with a focus on vulnerable and/or under achieving groups.
 3. Strengthening support to improve the emotional/mental health and well being of children and young people.
 4. Improving outcomes for Children, Young People and Families in areas of deprivation. (This links in with the Council's priorities around economic well-being too).
10. Priorities for service Integration in order to achieve these outcomes include culture and behaviour change to deliver integrated and preventative services, such as "Team Around the Child"; the common assessment framework; lead professional arrangements including better identification, tracking and targeting; engagement and capacity building of the voluntary sector; more effective engagement of schools and GP's and improved and joint information about services. However, it is worth noting that there are few performance indicators that local authorities are required to collect, or comparative statistics that are directly relevant to Young Carers.

The Young Carer

11. An analysis of a wide range of secondary research material outlined the characteristics of the Young Carer and the unique features of their situation. A summary of all of these, as drawn from the different sources, is set out in **Annex 2**. The Review Group particularly urges the reader to refer to this annex as it emphasizes the range of characteristics that young carers may display and that may often be

missed, the wide range of tasks and range of time spent in their caring responsibilities and hence the difficulty in actually defining and then identifying these children and young people.

It is RECOMMENDED that Annex 2 is sent to all schools and linked to the Young Carers Strategy.

12. At the beginning of the Review report, a definition of young carers was offered from the Oxfordshire Young Carers Strategy, but the Review Group wished to achieve clarification of this by obtaining primary evidence. Gloucestershire Young Carers say that “YCs are children and young people whose lives are restricted because they have caring responsibilities at home. It is estimated that there are at least 175,000 (identified) young carers in the UK.” The caring tasks that these young people are involved in range from:

- Nursing care
- Personal intimate care
- Emotional care
- Domestic care
- Financial care
- Childcare

“Young carers regularly carry out significant or substantial caring tasks; they assume a level of responsibility beyond what would normally be expected of children and young people.” (*Gloucestershire YC*).

The methodology/process of gathering evidence

13. In order to find out how the identification, management of and support for young carers was working and to suggest strategies, the Review Group gathered and assessed published research on this topic, visited a range of local authorities and other agencies, to find out how they approached this, benchmarked using relevant material and interviewed a range of “expert witnesses”.
14. As identified earlier, we also wanted to address some questions that clearly encapsulated what the Review was trying to achieve (*as taken from the East Riding Review of their Children & Young People’s Plan*) and these were listed in paragraph 2 of the report:

3. FINDINGS/EVIDENCE

15. The Review gathered a range of primary evidence from different sources as identified in **Annex 7**.
16. In the following sections, we explain in more detail the findings and the Review Group’s analysis and conclusions from these.

The County Council's strategy and work

17. Evidence provided by officers working within the Directorate for Children, Young People & Families (CYP&F) initially focused on the identification of and the authority's 3 year strategy for Young Carers.
18. It is estimated that Oxfordshire has about 12,000 young carers but the County Council only effectively reaches a small proportion of these (approximately 700). Current thinking within the Directorate is focused upon what the most appropriate service model would be. Having regard to this, the Directorate concentrates on "top tier provision" meaning, basically, where there is the most acute need. The single most desirable change among the officers working in this area would be to make young carers' issues a real "presence" across all of Oxfordshire's schools.
19. In trying to identify its appropriate service or a "best practice" model and to recommend it, CYP&F considers that in the future:
 - It must ensure that pockets of good practice get disseminated more widely.
 - That there is a direct service from the Young Carers' projects for those most in need.
 - That other areas of Children's Services need to get better at identifying the issues for Young Carers and of the need to face the challenge of YC projects being funded by grant.
20. In addition to those features and characteristics of YC's as identified in **Annex 2**, it was highlighted that YC's can be caring for more than one person in the household. Questioned about what the most desirable outcomes would be from the work of the Review and for the authority's future strategy, the CYP&F Directorate envisioned:
 - A "big push" around education.
 - That some pressure and ultimately some recommendations around financing would be welcome.
 - That there should be an identified individual in every school who is the "champion" for young carers. (recommendations elsewhere refer).
 - Influence from the young carer about whom their lead/designated person should be.
 - The goal would be for the Young Carer projects (including the South & Vale, the North & West and the City) to operate in more of a consultancy role, with the schools actually doing most of the recognition and provision.
 - Alleviating the fear among children that they may be taken into care (*we heard this on several occasions*). Parents were also inclined to hide the problems.
 - More early intervention activity.

21. The long term aim was for the Directorate to get from a position of crisis to being more proactive and intervening earlier.

How has Oxfordshire's strategy and development around Young Carers evolved?

22. It is "notable" that there is only one employee of the County Council specifically dedicated to YCs. Her strategy for 2005-08 has been adopted by the Princess Royal Trust as a prototype to recommend to other authorities and agencies.
23. During detailed discussions, the Review Group identified that:
- The Young Carers' Projects are concerned at the level of demand on them now.
 - With respect to the Review of Year One of the CYPP and the priorities for year 2; if a child is a Young Carer, he/she is going to fall within a range of the priorities – eg educational under-achievement, abuse, deprivation. All of the CYPP outcomes and priorities ought to have some relationship to Young Carers.
 - YC's are not easily categorised and so they are often invisible to the authorities.
 - The next review of Oxfordshire's YC strategy is due in 2008 and predominantly aims to do more of the same as now; it will not change drastically.
 - In the longer term (and this is critical) it is not just seen as being about having more people and more money, but about taking forward the strategic development role. This includes advising and urging agencies and groups of people in particular areas to take a lead themselves and do things that they are not doing at the moment, in order to join the gaps in identification, assessment and provision. This corresponds with the vision of The Children's Society, commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools & Families) DCSF to promote Whole Family Working across England. (At this point, the Review Group wishes to emphasize that there is some extremely good work going on in Oxfordshire as the Review goes on to explain. But sometimes it is in isolation and is not benefiting from good communication that could assist with the better deployment of the skills and resources that are available). Hence:
 - More "targeted services" are required.

It is RECOMMENDED that Oxfordshire's revised 2008-11 Young Carers' Strategy when issued, is widely disseminated and adhered to and that the specific educational needs of young carers are addressed.

How can a case be made for YC's to be a more deserving priority for CYPF than others?

24. In an ideal world, Oxfordshire's managers wish to use revenue funding properly on all YC Projects and to build up a mentoring scheme to equip people to offer incentives and a range of initiatives around young carers to all the schools across the county. Young Carers have been competing for attention in a service area of CYPF that is regularly overspent. In the officers' view there is a clear and identified need for joint budgeting across adult and children's services and with other agencies and this to some extent, will alleviate the current constraints on resources that the various services for young carers, working sometimes in isolation from one another, experience. Furthermore, whilst the current young carers' strategy is being revised, this ought to be done alongside the revision of the adult's strategy.

Local Government Information Unit Conference on Young Carers

The Conference, attended by Cllr Mrs Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor and Ben Jackson highlighted a number of issues that have a bearing on the Review's findings and conclusions, some of which recur elsewhere:

- The area is complex; much of the statistical material that is produced around the subject is fairly unreliable.
- There is a strong emphasis on the need for better integration between adult and children's services.
- Adult services should be included in the Common Assessment framework (CAF). The CAF for children and young people is a key part of a strategy to shift the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children's lives to preventing things from going wrong in the first place. It is a national standard approach to conducting an assessment of the additional needs of a child or young person and deciding how those needs should be met.
- There is a move towards incorporating young people's needs into an age 14 -19 transition towards adulthood plan. The transition from age 14 is critical, even more so up to the age of 24 and there should be more emphasis on bridging the gap at this stage between adult and children's services to avoid young people falling between nets.
- There is a growing demand to take young carers' respite needs into account.
- There is a need for "private time" for assessments - the assessment should be done partly away from the cared for adults and when the young carer is available; ie not at school.
- There is a need for a back up plan for young carers in case of illness/accident. What emergency plans were there in place?
- There should be better communication of local best practice.
- The Children's Society, commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has produced a "Whole Family Pathway"

which was piloted in Oxfordshire (*and the usefulness and impact of this is discussed in detail later on*).

- Strong messages from the Conference were: "Do not hide behind departmental policies and procedures" and "Keep young carers' files open".
25. The Review Group noted the role of Oxfordshire in the development of the Children's Society's "Pathway". The County of Hampshire and the London Borough of Hillingdon also participated and its experience with YCs is of interest for comparative purposes. The Review Group heard that it was one of the first London boroughs to develop a Young Carers Project. Funded by the Carers Grant, as of March 31st 2007, there were 140 young people registered with it.
 26. Based on their experience gained with the Young Carers Project, Hillingdon Carers established a separate scheme to support young carers who have caring responsibilities for somebody with a substance misuse problem. The "SPACE" project was devised as a 12 month pilot scheme funded jointly by the Carers Grant and Drugs and Alcohol Services. This mirrors similar initiatives elsewhere and may be recommended for Oxfordshire. In Oxfordshire a new drugs policy is being issued. There may be opportunities to highlight this and to focus/place some emphasis on the relationship to young carers with parents who have drugs problems and on the opportunities for Children's Services, with the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team, to embrace work with YC's.
 27. Hillingdon Carers secured funding from BBC Children in Need to extend the project into a second year. It is part of a stretch target in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) signed between Hillingdon Council and partners, and Central Government.
 28. As "schools often do not know that one of their pupils is a carer and may not realize that these responsibilities could be the cause of poor attendance, performance, or socialization", it was suggested that schools must play a proactive role in identifying and then supporting young carers and that this should include a named lead for young carers in every school. This corresponds with the wish list of the CYP&F Directorate, Gloucestershire's practice for Young Carers and the developments being promoted by the Children's Society.

It is RECOMMENDED that the principle of a discreet single point of contact in schools is accepted and that each school in Oxfordshire should be advised to nominate a single contact member of staff with responsibility for identifying and supporting young carers and that means, such as a "Toolkit" or School Guidance pack should ensure that training, internet accessible material etc are in place to assist them in this role.

29. Given the importance of the issue of support for young carers in schools, the Review Group would strongly urge that the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee examines this issue in further depth, on an ongoing basis. The Authority should note the significant number of young people with caring responsibilities in Oxfordshire, and the challenges these responsibilities may pose for young people's personal development. The Review Group would like the Director for CYP&F to examine whether schools could do more to support young carers;

It is RECOMMENDED that a guide/protocol is developed for schools, modeled on the practices elsewhere including Gloucestershire and The Children's Society.

Gloucestershire

30. Gloucestershire's model was different to Oxfordshire's; it was the second Young Carers organisation in the country to be established. A BBC programme "Teenage Diaries" on prime time TV had featured and gained attention for a Gloucester young carer; local social services had subsequently acknowledged that there was not sufficient support for YCs. Gloucestershire young Carers (Gloucs YCs) is an independent charity; funding nowadays is via a purchaser-provider contract with the County Council (£56,000) (formerly a Service Level Agreement), £38,000 via the Carers Grant and the remainder from the Henry Smith charity, Comic Relief, Connexions and voluntary donations.
31. Leaflets and publications produced and which are available in libraries and schools, have been very effective in bringing young carers' attention to Gloucs YC. Gloucs also has a very active Young Carers Forum. It recently developed a "Befriending Project": this is a mental health project including a 20 week therapy group. There had been no adequate, easily understandable published material on this difficult area. Consequently, the production of "Minds, Myths and Me" has acquired a very high profile. The Royal College of Psychiatry had been looking at producing a similar guide, saw Gloucs's, endorsed it and has taken over the publication and distribution. There is a lot of stigma around young people caring for people with mental health problems and feelings of "it's my fault" so the project is potentially ground breaking. Gloucs YC (and this seems common among other projects) has never had any support/funding via health.
32. Recently, there has been a big push on schools; on raising awareness and establishing single points of contact (see Oxfordshire's thoughts above). For instance, one school in Tewkesbury where a single point of contact had been established, brought 19 new YCs to the YC project's attention from a known base of only 7 beforehand. This was an excellent case study where

children felt confident enough to come forward and where sufficient confidentiality was in place to allow them to do so.

33. The great advantage of Gloucestershire's situation is that it is an independent agency, so it isn't identified with or branded by agencies such as the social services. *(This is a feature that the Review Group returns to in its recommendations).*
34. During the course of the Review, the availability of transport to help YCs access support and activities has been a problem. Gloucs Young Carers decided to co-ordinate transport for YCs to all clubs and outside of home activities. It was costly (£40,000 pa) to pick up children at their doorstep, take them to a group or activities, but it made a significant and acknowledged difference to the children and their parents. Gloucs YC managed to provide a service to all known young carers across the County using volunteer drivers with their own cars.
35. In the light of this evidence:

It is RECOMMENDED that that given the rural nature of Oxfordshire and that many Young Carers have no access to rural transport, resources are made available to ensure that YCs are able to access support services.

36. Gloucestershire also has a service level agreement/ contract with the County Council that has a range of targets and statistics that have to be produced. Among these is the number of contacts with YCs, how many are waiting for assessment, how many have been assessed etc. In the last half year 63 new referrals were made to them; one must bear in mind that it is still a relatively small organisation with a total budget of £250,000 pa. (It is worth considering whether to implement a similar (ie service level agreement) arrangement in Oxon.)
37. It is also interesting to make some comparisons regarding staff complement. There are 9 workers, mainly part time. The Chief Executive works 30 hours p/w. There is also a Project Worker responsible for the day-to-day core services and a Development Worker who has worked with the BME community and produced some excellent results, eg an Asian Girls YC Forum. FTE is approximately 4.5 but there are various p/t workers around the county, sub-contracted via the CC and via a service level agreement with the Youth Service. Gloucestershire Young Carers funds these. There are also 13 YC projects around the county; the Befriending Project, a BEM (British Ethnic Minority) group, "Us Too" group for young carers caring for a parent with mental health problems. The Development Worker works with the travelling community and refugees. There is also a Mental Health Development Worker. This is a well resourced and supported service and the Review Group, in

its work, has had regard to what may be the optimum resource level required to deliver a good, but cost effective service given the growing demand. This has been borne in mind in the recommendations that follow from the evidence.

38. A recent area of development is in respect of young people who care for people with HIV or aids; an interesting but difficult area among YCs.
39. Having referred to Gloucestershire's policy and practice with regard to the role that schools may have, the main features that the Review considered could be drawn upon for recommendations about improvements in the circumstances of Young Carers in Oxfordshire were:
 - The Production of a leaflet such as their "Supporting the 'young' in young carer", or "A Guide to supporting young carers in school".
 - Specialist advice/documentation eg "Caring Matters" and "Minds, Myths and Me Fact Pack". (refer also to the Children's Society evidence and documentation).
 - Young Carers and the Young Carers Policy Template for Schools. (see **Annex 7**).
40. The Review would like to encourage the CYP&F Directorate to explore the feasibility of introducing similar projects/publications into Oxfordshire.
41. The Review Group wished to take stock of the arrangements locally in Oxfordshire for supporting young carers and took the opportunity to speak to witnesses from all 3 of the projects. The following sections cover the pertinent features that arose in relation to the review's aims and objectives.

South & Vale Young Carers

42. The background to the work that the Project does is quite typical and characteristic of what we have heard elsewhere; principally that there are serious "funding" issues about what is provided. Perhaps uniquely, at least in the CD and lesson style format, the Project provides Information Packs for schools (*examples are available and included in the bibliography*).
43. Concerns were expressed about the knowledge among YCs and how they make themselves aware of support and how agencies become aware of them - and once again, the importance of having a single point of contact in schools was stressed. Furthermore, that School Admission Forms & Home to School documentation should include

Young Carer references and that mentoring projects should be developed (see above).

44. The views expressed by a focus group of young carers emphasised several of the traits and characteristics identified by secondary research, as detailed in the main body of the report and in Annex 2 for instance:
- Tiredness; difficulties in getting up in the morning.
 - Not telling anyone at school about problems, because it will entail involving the YC's social worker.
 - Not telling people about their situations, because of the fear that they will be judgemental.
 - Not wanting sympathy – hence YCs only disclose their situations to close friends.
 - If advice is disseminated by teachers, it is not very helpful usually. Their experience is that teachers do not know how to identify YCs
 - It is not possible to be contacted at school except by mobile 'phone - and 'phones are not normally meant to be switched on in school.

Among the group there was an awareness of many other children and young people who haven't revealed themselves as YCs. Many do not appreciate that they are YCs; they are just "getting on with things" and accepting their situation as "normal". All among the focus group regarded their situation as normal until somebody else drew their attention to the Young Carers Project.

In terms of help, these young people said that what they needed was more people like their support worker at the Project, who can take them on visits and to events and provide support. They would like to have people to speak to who have experienced a similar situation. Schools' awareness needs to be raised; there needs to be better communication with them and within them; there isn't sufficient advertising or publicity on young carers available in schools. "Greater information, greater awareness" is what is needed – and they also hoped that they would be able (by funding) to produce their own Project website.

City Young Carers

45. The City YC Project drew the Review Group's attention to the context of support and involvement from among social care and health care professionals. Historically, there has not been much contact or input from schools. Consequently efforts at the moment, as with other projects and expert witnesses that the Review spoke to, are focused on reaching out to schools and work around intervention and prevention strategies from very early on in young people's lives. In an ideal world, the Project wishes to establish a "drop in" centre, ie, a proper Young Carers centre before and after school and "drop out" cards during lessons (*also referred to in the Oxfordshire PCT's*

evidence). Unfortunately, because it is a “charity”, schools have tended to pay lip service to the Project. It sees its role, principally, as “facilitating” schools to carry out the identification and support.

46. It has introduced an “e-motivate” project based around art and is now providing training in the city area for schools to develop awareness of YCs. In the light of the Children’s Society’s strategies, to which the report refers later, it is trying to make all the adult and young people’s agencies aware of how they can work together.
47. The Project provides a youth counselling service in conjunction with other agencies in the area including the County Council’s Youth Support Services who receive a number of referrals for young carers to both the counselling and mentoring services. The Project also offers a new programme, “My Space”, to support parents who are misusing drugs/alcohol. A website has been developed with the Primary Care Trust on needs in this area. The Young Carers’ themselves have developed their own website, which is probably unique across the country.
48. A view was expressed during discussions with the Project workers and to which there was consensus, that being a YC is something that people “should be proud of” and to acknowledge this, the authority might wish to consider celebrating their achievements.
49. Of some consequence in respect of what the Review recommends, future demand for young carers support is in the transition from age 16 to early adulthood. This is a critical age in terms of support available and there are 16 -17 year olds who strive to keep their families together as the costs and emotional impact of breaking a family up at this stage are immense. There is a disparity between on the one hand, giving responsibility to the YC as “the responsible adult” for the family and on the other, that no support is available from the social services. Earlier on, the Review Group referred to the critical need to bridge the gap between adult and children’s services, particularly as regards age 16-24 young carers. Local authorities are required to identify who YCs are, but as commented upon elsewhere in the report, they are not required to actually deliver carers’ assessments. There is a tension around on the one hand, the legal duty to assess and on the other, the absence of any obligation to provide for the assessed need.

It is RECOMMENDED that with reference to the dichotomy in the legislative position referred to in paragraph 49, the Cabinet lobby Central Government via the Local Government Association, to consider a review of legislative requirements around assessments for young carers.

50. There are also particular problems with ethnic minority carers and families; for example in Asian families it is very difficult to gain access as culturally, caring is seen as a family responsibility.
51. The Review Group is concerned that the perception within the Project is that in practice, social services strategy appears to be to “contain” rather than proactively work around YCs. This prompts the thrust in this Review about improving inter-agency work. The Project is a charity, 70% of its work is concerned with delivering the work of the statutory agencies. It is conscious of its duty of care and responsibilities in respect of relevant legislation and recommends that a more holistic family approach is needed.
52. Difficulties are encountered in the Project’s practical work, in so far as whilst they are partly independent, there are often perceptions among people that they are part of the social services.
53. Arising from this evidence, the Review Group urges that in order to develop strategies to improve the situation of YC’s, one must aim for “buy-in” from local businesses to help. The County Council must take a position. Does it want to be “aspirational”, or “to hide” behind statute? We request that the Director for CYP&F to assess the merits of using different YC models from across the UK. What has worked and what hasn’t across the UK?
54. If the County Council wishes to be “aspirational”, then it should/must explore the potential for joint budgeting between adult and children’s services, embedding attitudinal/cultural changes by for instance, communicating more effectively with and between the agencies concerned with young carers in Oxfordshire, such as the young carers’ projects – and its partners, such as the PCT.
55. If there is a “sea change” in attitude towards resource allocation, should the Council give YCs a higher priority than they are currently accorded and thus, being able to release resources to meet some of the demands made in the Review recommendations as regards transport and more support for the local projects?

The Cabinet is therefore RECOMMENDED to consider the priority accorded by the Council to young carers; does it aspire to provide better identification of, support for and resources for YCs to make Oxfordshire the leader among its peers?

North & West Oxfordshire Young Carers

56. Evidence to the Review provided by the North and West Oxfordshire Young Carers Project, focused firstly on the assessment and referral process to the Project and on the problems of securing sustainable funding; particularly base funding including salaries and session staff.

57. As indicated by other Projects and Young Carers' Groups who have contributed to the Review, there are substantial costs in providing transport for young people to attend activities and events organised by the Project.
58. It is conscious that Young Carers' needs, even among those registered with the N&W Centre, are not always met. There are particular problems working with teenagers in rural areas. Confirming evidence elsewhere once again, the Project's experience is that some YCs are missed altogether because of their fear of being taken into care. This being the case, it is suggested by the Project that the way forward is to do more work with schools. Raising awareness in schools is usually the way that the unknown YCs start to come to light.
59. It is argued that better provision for YCs will ensure better attendance at school (because absence among YCs is high), and better overall educational achievement. School attendance statistics are a revealing piece of evidence on YCs. If they - and even more so, achievement statistics are made available (the problem with the latter being the means of identifying who the young carers are), this would provide a convincing case for arguing on behalf of YCs particularly in the context of the "Every Child Matters" agenda and the Children & Young People's Plan priorities. These issues are returned to in more detail later in the Review. The aim of the assessment process briefly referred to above, is to provide indicators of improvement in these areas.
60. Work with the other Oxfordshire YC projects occurs and about 3 joint meetings a year take place to exchange views. There are plans to do more work together, such as a trip being planned to the Isle of Man and meeting up with the Oxford City YCs there.
61. The Review Group has been provided with a copy of a written request from the Project for funding that was originally submitted to the Cabinet Member and officers last November. The Project's view, as promulgated in the letter, is that the County Council is not fulfilling its statutory duties with regard to young carers. The position as described is that from the Project's inception in 2000 there was core funding from Children in Need but this has now expired. There is no regular major donor to replace the £31,000 provided per year from Children in Need. Therefore, the key message from the Project is the need for regular funding from the County. The uncertainty around funding is the major problem and core funding is necessary (see paragraph 54 above). Where it has previously been available, this has often been at the last minute and is not a good basis for forward planning. There have been problems in identifying who the project should be working with at County level, particularly so far as the educational side of Children's Services and funding attached to this is concerned.

62. The North & West Project has produced a DVD, wholly featuring the YCs themselves; “Good Days, Bad Days” provides a very useful insight into the experience of young carers and supports many of the themes and findings of this Review. Because of this, the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee took up the opportunity of seeing the DVD when the draft report was presented.
63. When speaking to young carers at the Project, the Review Group heard that they did not wish to be singled out and treated differently at school. The young people also hoped that they could meet at the Project more regularly than once a month and in many other respects, highlighted the same issues about their situations as the other Oxfordshire Projects had.

OCC Children and Young People’s (C&YP) survey

64. During the summer of 2007, a wide-scale survey took place in Oxfordshire which included 6,539 children and young people (C&YP) aged 4 -16+ from 35 schools across the county who completed online surveys in April/May 2007. Two additional ‘booster’ surveys supplemented the overall data, to ensure that disabled C&YP and C&YP who may not have had access to the survey through schools were fully included. One question in the survey asked about whether C&YP cared for somebody at home, and if so whether they cared for parents who were ill/disabled, their own babies/children or for other family members. The **Annex (3)** only reflects the findings related to C&YP caring for a parent or another family member who is not their own child.
65. The data suggests that information on young carers needs to be used with some caution, as 21% of secondary C&YP and 38% of primary C&YP say they care for someone at home. There would be no particular reason why there should be such a striking difference in caring responsibilities for older and younger C&YP, so it is possible that younger children took the question to mean looking after someone with a short-term illness, e.g. a cold.
66. The key findings relating to young carers by and large reflect what the review heard from other evidence sources, but indicate particular features concerning ethnic minorities, in and outside school activities and work.

Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)

67. Loosely relating to Young Carers, the PCT has a role around “Safeguarding Services”; this is a form of scrutiny in so far as it checks on whether the safeguarding measures among other authorities and agencies are meeting requirements. (The recent Joint Area Review had some reservations about how the Oxfordshire

“Safeguarding Board” has been operating and the Review Group is keen to strengthen up the links between the County’s services and the Trust’s safeguarding services).

68. Its Partnerships Team includes work on health inequalities and the lead on carers’ issues. The latter includes representation on the Carers Strategy Group for Oxfordshire, to progress the strategic work of the PCT around carers. The main thrust of this strategic work currently, is through the GP practices - principally through the IRIS Project (Identify, Register, Inform and Signpost). The purpose of this is to identify the carers through the GP’s practices and to then refer them to the Carers’ Projects. The GP’s national contract now requires them to have a Carers Protocol. (Please refer back to page 13 about having a similar protocol/guide applying to schools and the recommendation to this effect).
69. Phase 3 of the Children’s Centres development programme has just been rolled out. It is envisaged that the Children’s Centres and the support that they provide will be linked up much more consciously with Young Carers and deprived groups.
70. Corresponding with what other sources of research and witnesses revealed, the PCT raised the identification of YCs as being very difficult to achieve. YCs themselves make it difficult to be identified for a range of reasons. But, the PCT’s view is that GP’s are actually in the best situation to recognise who is being cared for and who is doing the caring. However, their national contract is very narrow and the identification of YCs and the protocol regarding them is consequently very narrow in scope. GPs are also restricted on occasion, by confidentiality issues. A new leaflet has just been issued for surgeries (see below), aimed towards carers self-identifying. Work is progressing alongside all the 3 Carers’ Centres in Oxfordshire together with the GP surgeries to try to improve the referral rates via the GPs.
71. In common with other evidence to the Review, the PCT emphasises the need for a multi-pronged attack to the issue of YCs, particularly involving schools. It is considered that schools must have a better feeling than most for the characteristics and the predicament of YCs and fundamentally, it is a matter of training and development and raising and keeping the profile of YCs in people’s minds. The best means of understanding their plight or situation is by actually talking to them (a comment that we heard repeatedly from various sources during the review).
72. A new scheme that the PCT wishes to develop on a local basis is a card that YCs can show at school which immediately identifies them to teachers and staff, together with their need on occasions to attend to circumstances at home during the school day. (*This is a scheme*

that the Review Group also heard suggested by the Oxford City Young Carers Project).

73. It is of some concern that there hasn't been a process or structure in the past for schools to contact the Trust directly about their concerns for YCs. But the Common Assessment Framework and the Oxfordshire Locality Co-ordinators (there are 13) are starting to counter this problem and arrange "Team Around the Child" meetings. "Every Child Matters" highlights YCs under the "Be Safe" agenda and YC issues are cross cutting throughout several aspects of it. It is considered that this is helping to raise the profile of YCs, which in essence is the aim of the Review and of the agencies that are involved in this area. It is essential that the Review conveys the message that the situation of Young Carers permeates the "Every Child Matters" agenda.
74. The Review had earlier questioned the role and purpose of the County Council's Young Carers Strategy and in particular, how the agencies subscribing to it participate in multi-agency work and in progressing action plans to meet objectives. The Trust is part of the Countywide Strategy Group but has been challenged about its Carers Strategy not adequately addressing YCs. In discussion with the Review Group, the Trust was keen to highlight its responsibilities in relation to the County strategy, the areas that it has taken action upon and of its desire to see the YC strategy and YC issues generally having more prominence in the Countywide Strategic Group and in the Carers Strategy.
75. Based on the PCT's evidence concerning what is working within partnership arrangements around young carers, all the partners and agencies involved with YCs should seek to enhance and progress their inter-agency work in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness - thus potentially reducing the material budget implications (see paragraph 54 above – may change).
76. The Review wishes to emphasise that raising attainment in schools is a high priority, as is economic well-being. As identified by Hertfordshire (below), there is no measure of attainment among YCs (whereas there is for instance, among cared for children). Improving the position of YCs may make inroads on the overall attainment statistics and on economic well-being. The Review and the agencies involved are starting to consider the destinations of YCs as they reach the "transition" to adulthood later on – including work, further and higher education. YCs may be a significant factor in the overall attainment levels.
77. Evidence to the Review has suggested that there is some resistance from GPs to actually referring YCs to the social services. For this reason the GP's protocol now indicates that they ought to refer cases

to the Young Carers' projects as the acknowledged experts in this area.

78. Additional material circulated to the Review Group during discussion with the PCT is indicative of a strong effort to raise the profile of young carers within the PCT and with agencies working alongside the PCT. There have also been efforts to progress action plans relating to the YC strategy and to progress inter-agency work, notably the PCT summary of activity in respect of the Oxfordshire Young Carers Strategy 2005-08 (see bibliography). This in particular, indicates the extent of attention that the PCT is placing in its inter-agency work on young carers.

It is RECOMMENDED that based on the Oxfordshire PCT's experience, to work more closely with GPs to identify previously unidentified Young Carers and ensure that they and that their families receive the appropriate support.

Hertfordshire Young Carers

79. Hertfordshire County Council is a Beacon authority for its work in developing a multi-agency Young Carers strategy. Its activities, working alongside Carers in Hertfordshire Young Carers Project include a focus on "raising awareness" about Young Carers and in sustaining momentum on this with the various agencies that may be involved, once their attention is caught. (In this respect its focus and ethos is similar to what is being promoted by the The Children's Society).
80. It is acknowledged that identification of young carers is a common problem and its current initiatives are mainly around localising projects and extended schools work. (Again, this approach corresponds with the thrust of work elsewhere including Oxfordshire County Council and the local projects, Gloucestershire and the The Children's Society.)
81. The multi-agency approach involves and relies on better co-ordinated, inter-agency work. As the authority has become a victim of its own success in identifying YC's, other agencies must be drawn in to developing and managing services. Significantly, Hertfordshire identifies the need for lead responsibility where there is a dependency on inter-agency work.
82. The strategy focuses resources at the acute end among YC's. Because of its proactive work with other agencies, especially Health, Hertfordshire bucks the trend elsewhere in so far as it receives referrals of YC's via Health agencies including GPs – and the Youth Service; (although there are strong informal links between the Young Carers Projects and Youth Support Services in Oxfordshire). As

identified in evidence elsewhere, transport costs, resources, funding and sustainability issues feature highly.

83. Educational attainment is a high priority for the authority; as highlighted elsewhere there is no measure of attainment recorded and the impact that YC's can have on overall achievement levels is acknowledged.
84. Given the problems identified by several witnesses to the Review, Herts most recent work has been focused on BEM Young Carers.
85. In particular, what may be recommended from Hertfordshire as good practice to emulate includes that:

It is RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet explores the benefits of different staffing models for YCs such as in Hertfordshire, including 4 Professional Assistants for YC's centrally based and working on a locality basis, in Children, Schools and Families.

86. Furthermore, on the basis of the visit to Hertfordshire and experience elsewhere, the Review Group considered the usefulness and benefits to introducing an annual YC conference, as first raised by the Oxford City Young Carers Project. There are a lot of sensitivities around such a suggestion, but it is worth keeping on the "back burner" for thought in the future.
87. At this stage, the Review Group would also wish to draw attention to the Social Care Institute for Excellence research briefing 11: The health and well-being of young carers (referred to in the bibliography) that corroborates most of the features of the Young Carers situation that we have heard about or seen elsewhere.

The Children's Society

88. Discussions with four of the Children's Society's (CS) staff conveyed a wealth of information and evidence. The Review Group considers that the work around developing the "Key Principles" (see **Annex 4**), "The Whole-Family Pathway" (www.youngcarer.com) and the national programme of development and training with local authorities may be recommended wholesale to the Cabinet for the County Council to adopt and adhere to. In doing so, it may be possible to bridge the gap between the identification of the young carers and their needs on the one hand and on the other, the delivery of inter-agency, whole family solutions in practice. Evidence throughout the Review has highlighted the shortcomings in inter-agency work around the young carer.
89. A range of other documents and publications were referred to and these are in the bibliography to the review report. To reiterate, these are the key points that came out of the discussion.

It is RECOMMENDED to:

- **endorse in principle and enable the Children's Society (by arranging a formal event), to launch the Key Principles and the Whole Family Pathway within Oxfordshire, and that both are adopted, the latter as a tool for practitioners working with YCs;**
- **bid to become one of the authorities involved in The Children's Society's roll out of the development of the Key Principles of Practice – Guidance for Practitioners and the Whole - Family Pathway;**
- **endorse the roll out of development to local authorities.**

90. The Society has received £600,000 from central government over the next 3 years to work with 9 local authorities (LAs). For the time being, 5 have been selected – Bristol, Slough, Wandsworth, Thurrock and Nottingham. The CS's strategy is to establish whether there is a focus/steering group in the local authorities for young carers; then to attach the Children's Society to the steering group to help them develop their strategies. The different LAs require different kinds of support for their work with YCs, but usually it is around the development of strategies and joint protocols. The Society will then work alongside the LAs for 6 months and train/develop them in the practice of YC caring and support.
91. A range of events will run alongside this Project where the CS, health and voluntary sectors will be represented. The aim of these events (they will be run as conferences) is to promote the Key Principles and The Pathway and for the LAs to present their YC strategies. A range of workshops will be run alongside with speakers and exhibition stands - so that all of the resources available can be linked up. Oxfordshire, Hants and Hillingdon were the pilots for the development of the Key Principles and The Pathway. As an independent agency the CS was in a better position to get the senior management on board at these authorities.
92. Three road shows will also run over the next 3 years to update people on what is happening nationally. As many as 200 LAs will be invited to these, the aim being to discuss and update development of the Principles, Pathway and the work on the current project with the 9 LAs and also to raise the profile and then keep the opinions of the YCs foremost; to this end a national YC Forum has been set up to seek views from them about what they would like to tell the professionals working in their area. A DVD has been produced to support this.

The Review Group RECOMMENDS the Cabinet to consider in detail the key features of the Children's Society work as described in this evidence and in the publications listed in the

bibliography, as good strategy and practice that the County Council should wish to adhere to.

93. The view of the Children's Society is that the "Every Child Matters" agenda suffuses all of the work and activities that it is promoting. The Review Group believes that it should also pervade all OCC's work around YCs as it is clear that the CYPP priorities have cross cutting features that intertwine with their situation. It is fair to say that OCC's strategy and action plan strongly emphasise actions derived from the "Every Child Matters" themes and this is also the case in other authorities' strategies, for instance Hertfordshire's.
94. There is a different emphasis in the comments that the various agencies and projects working with YCs have made; on the one hand, a focus on money and resources and on the other, (namely The Children's Society) on the need for culture change through creating better awareness. It is in this context that the Review wishes to remind the Cabinet of the importance of Young Carers in the achievement of the "Every Child Matters" agenda and of the need for greater awareness among agencies as a means to "culture change" within the County Council.
95. On page 11, the Review Group referred to the need for joint budgeting across adult and children's services and with other agencies. It is a matter of necessity that the Council adopts an approach/policy that Children and Adult Services work better together to achieve solutions for YCs and that there is better inter-agency working among all the agencies involved. Towards this end, the Children's Society has been promoting the principle of and actual "joint working protocols".

The Review Group RECOMMENDS joint working protocols between adult and children's services (alongside the Schools protocol referred to earlier) for Oxfordshire.

96. The ultimate aim of work for and on behalf of YCs is that there should be no child in need of assessment and support; ie practitioners should eventually reach a stage where there are no children in need. Furthermore, given the evidence and information provided to this Review:

It is desirable to achieve a link up of all the resources available on behalf of YCs, especially support from Adult Services; this is what the Society seeks to do and on a local basis this is RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet from the review.

97. The Review Group endorses the CS's strategy for the delivery of The Pathway and a whole family, inclusive approach to the management of and support for young carers that follows from this. Furthermore,

during the latter part of the Review, it was drawn to our attention that Nottinghamshire, in progressing its strategy and work with young carers is seeking a “critical friend” evaluation in two years time. This would be useful to emulate and:

It is RECOMMENDED that following the example of Nottinghamshire, a “critical friend”, likely to be The Children’s Society, is invited to evaluate the progress in implementing the new Young Carers Strategy and the impact of the initiatives recommended by this Review, in two years time.

The Role Of Schools

98. Quite a lot of the evidence in this report has referred to the role of schools and a lot of emphasis has been placed on schools being more proactive, on putting more support and advice into them, etc. However, we did not have any real evidence of experience and practice from teachers and other professionals in schools.
99. Quite late on in the Review process we received evidence that is summarised here, that largely confirms what the Review Group has heard elsewhere, ie “a mixed bag” – some good schools/professional, some less so; problems in identification and in resources.
100. The following reflection that the Review Group received via the Council of Oxfordshire Teachers Organisation Secretary is regarded as broadly reflective of the thoughts and views of classroom teachers in schools and those with pastoral/SEN responsibilities in particular: It is “a curate's egg situation: good in parts, rotten in others and not being aware “of any systematic method of identifying and supporting young carers in Oxfordshire schools”. This is regarded as a role that Children's Services should undertake (rather than teachers) and to allocate the appropriate resources to enable this to happen without adding to teachers' workload.
101. Individual Education Plans would not be particularly welcome as they are time consuming and almost inevitably take that time from actually working with the children and young people. It would be “a cheap substitute” for the real solution - social services providing sufficient care for the person in need to enable the young carer to attend school as normal.
102. Views from other teaching professionals were in broad agreement with this; for instance, no formal way of schools identifying young carers, albeit that schools are often the first to alert others because they have 'accidentally' found YCs. A particular school had been informed by a family/young carers project that a Year 3 child was a carer. For the child concerned the 'school' is the 'constant' and as always when schools are so aware of the child's home life they have to continue to meet the demands of raising standards/achievements

whilst trying to bring some normality/ happiness to their life. It feels that the 'team around the child' concept following a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) as a result of Every Child Matters, (all of which we have raised as critical themes during the Review) leaves the schools with 'more' to do rather than providing 'extra support' for individual children.

103. Professionals have also found that there is limited guidance and advice available via the Intranet and in particular instances, where there is an Outreach Awareness Worker employed by the Young Carers Project to provide support, the funding comes via the Lottery. This is a fragile and unsustainable basis from which to work, although teachers are grateful for the advice that is available from the Oxfordshire YC Projects.
104. In other case studies worth quoting: In one, the School Counsellor checks the transfer notes from Year 6 teachers to see if there are any Young Carers in the new intake. Students are also identified by Heads of Year and these are passed to the School Counsellor, who then refers to Young Carers Project and checks that follow-up contact has been made.
105. In another, there is a problem in so far as the particular Young Carers Project is based too far away, so contact has been made with another Project, out of county, where the bus links are better. The local Young Carers organisation is explained to students each year in assemblies and a representative comes to the Year Team meetings to meet form tutors. There is some excellent support from the local organisation (Project) for young people, who have contact via text, email or phone with a support worker. The main limitation is that this is a daytime-only service. In practice, it is more likely to be schools than the social services that will uncover young carer "situations", eg. when following up on absences. As most secondary schools now use support staff to do attendance checking, it is considered that there may be another "case for some joined-up funding" (that has cropped up as a theme several times in this work), so that an alert to other agencies can be part of the pastoral system.

4. CONCLUSIONS

106. From the evidence gathered, the principle conclusions drawn are:
 - That single points of contact should be promoted and be in place across all schools who can give appropriate advice and time to Young Carers.
 - That there must be a focus on the intertwining of the "Every Child Matters" agenda and the situation of young carers.
 - There is a need for better, more effective, partnership or inter-agency working; not necessarily at a cost if a lead is identified

according to circumstances, as this will enhance efficiency in identification and provision for YCs.

- That, modelled on the provision for children with special education needs there may be a case for introducing something similar to an “Individual Education Plan” for YCs and we would ask that this is addressed in the new Strategy for Young Carers 2008-11.
- Acknowledgement on the one hand, of the legal duty to assess and on the other, the absence of any obligation to provide for the assessed need – and that action, possibly through lobbying central government, should follow.
- That there is a strong connection between YCs and the County Council’s focus on educational attainment and economic well-being.
- That there are models of good practice that could enhance the good work that is already being done in Oxfordshire by Children’s Services and the young carers’ projects and in particular, that the Children’s Society model provides good examples through the Key Principles, The Pathway, work with local authorities and work in raising awareness that should be adhered to and/or endorsed by Oxfordshire.

Concluding Remarks

107. The Review Group is satisfied that it has achieved the aims and objectives of the Review as set out in the scoping document. The Group would like to thank all those who contributed as “expert witnesses” or by providing information, or as hosts for any visits that Members made.
108. It is difficult to find easy and comprehensive solutions to the issues that have emerged, but it is hoped that the conclusions and recommendations that we have reached will assist the Cabinet and other agencies in developing policies and strategies and in contributing to improvements in performance in work with young carers in schools and between agencies.
109. There are other people and agencies that the Review could have invited contributions from. However, with limited resources and time, it is considered that a cross section of useful evidence has been achieved given these parameters.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

110. It is important that schools (and other agencies) that work with Young Carers acknowledge the needs expressed by them. These are eloquently expressed by the Young Carers “top 10 tips for schools” produced from the Young Carers Festival 2006, supported by the Children’s Society.

It is RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet endorses these principles and urges School Governing Bodies to adhere to them:

Oxfordshire County Council/schools should:

- 1. Recognise that the responsibility as a YC can affect education and school work;**
- 2. Find out about them, what they need and how they are not like other students;**
- 3. Take time to find out about individual problems at home. Sometimes YCs are too embarrassed to say themselves;**
- 4. Not automatically punish YCs if they are late. Sometimes this can't be helped because they are helping out at home;**
- 5. Provide more support such as lunchtime drop ins and homework clubs;**
- 6. Be flexible – giving more time and help to do homework or coursework;**
- 7. Include information about YC and disability issues in Personal, Social Health & Sex Education lessons;**
- 8. Let YCs phone parents to see if they are OK;**
- 9. Make sure that there is a clear and up to date community notice board that has support info for YC and where else they can get help in the community;**
- 10. Ensure teachers are offered training on YC and disability issues both at university and on inset days.**

111. Young Carers should be enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school, be prepared for working life, find that schools are fully accessible and have inclusive communications' practices in place and that the positive aspects of caring are recognised and valued.

Glossary

BEM – British Ethnic Minorities

C&YP – Children and young people

CYPP – Children & Young People's Plan

CYP&F – Children Young People & Families (Directorate)

CS – The Children's Society

DSCF – Department of Schools, Culture & Families

GPs – General Practitioners

IRIS (Identify, register, Inform & Signpost) – an Oxfordshire PCT project

LAs – Local Authorities

LAA – Local Area Agreement

PCT – Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust

YC's – Young Carers

**Scrutiny Review – Young Carers – Scoping Document –
Version 4**

Review Topic (name of Review)	Young Carers
Review Reference Code	CS015
Parent Scrutiny Committee	Children's Services
Lead Member Review Group (Cllr's involved)	Cllrs Fitzgerald O'Connor, D. Turner, Viney and Mr Jackson
Member responsible for tracking (nominate one Cllr)	To be decided
Officer Support (Scrutiny Review Officer lead)	Julian Hehir
Rationale (key issues and/ or reason for doing the Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are concerns, as yet unsupported by documented evidence, that young carers are not being identified and that there are gaps in the multi-agency approach to assessing their needs, wishes, support and the availability of suitable provision. • Young carers have been identified by Members (including two of the authority's Scrutiny Committees; Social & Community Services and Health) as a key issue. • There is considerable public interest in this issue, as indicated by recent media coverage. • There is an opportunity to make a distinctive impact in this area of current interest (to date, no other authorities have undertaken a scrutiny review of this topic from perspectives other than health). • There is not an absolutely definitive and identifiable process for carrying out an individual assessment of the carer's rather than the cared for person's needs. There is a duty for the local authority to assess needs but not necessarily to provide at the level of need identified.
Purpose of Review/Objective (specify exactly what the Review should achieve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify how the County Council (and its partners) may empower young carers to approach the authority for help (the fear is that they do not because, conversely, they often think that they may be taken into care). • To identify the different kinds of Young Carers, in terms of age and caring

	<p>responsibilities (eg age and disability of the cared for).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify how Young Carers are catered for in the context of the “Every Child Matters” agenda. • To achieve a change in understanding and perception around young carers. • To identify the gaps between provision, need/demand and availability of services. • To examine the social/economic/educational and health impacts of the issue.
<p>Indicators of Success (what factors would tell you what a good Review should look like)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will have identified who the young carers are. • Will have identified local needs and wishes. • Will have identified how the service for young carers can be improved, including the ongoing identification process.
<p>Methodology/ Approach (what types of enquiry will be used to gather evidence and why)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk based review of topic. • Making comparisons with what other authorities do well/not so well in respect of Young Carers. • “Client journeys” Including looking at the transitional phases between the different age groups of young carers (by testimonials, written evidence). • Interviewing officers. • Questioning witnesses.
<p>Specify Witnesses/ Experts (who to see and when)</p>	<p><i>(Most of the witnesses and contacts identified can be grouped together as appropriate for interview/visit/documentary evidence purposes).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Couldrick – Head of Early Years & Family Support (CYP&F). • Deborah Parkhouse - Strategic Development Officer- Young Carers (CYP&F). • Nick Welch (Head of Social & Health Care Planning & Partnership) role in relation to Supporting People fund. • Oxfordshire Parent Partnership (& Parents). • Officers etc from other authorities for comparative purposes. <p><i>(Mainly by visiting, rather than inviting to interview) the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banbury, Witney & Bicester Young Carers (contacts: Veronica Jones/June Sutherland – Young Carers Project). • Carers Centre (South & Vale) 3-5 Lydalls Road, Didcot -Young Carers Project

	<p>(contacts: Sarah Norvis/Mitch Warwick).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Carers Centre. • Children’s Society –Young Carers; Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street, London WC1 0JZ - www.childrenssociety.org.uk Children’s Society Carers Initiative - Jenny Frank • The Princess Royal Trust for Carers (PRTC) Alex Fox (Assistant Director-Service Development). • Oxfordshire Family Support Network. • SENCO’S (possibly via Brenda Williams, COTO Secretary). • Schools’ Pastoral Heads of Year Groups. • Representatives of Primary School Headteachers. • Representatives of voluntary organizations. <p><i>(Initially by written input):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxfordshire PCT (including sample of GP’s, Health Visitors, District Nurses - as regards Assessments etc) and School Nurses. • District Councils (eg, as regards “Staying Put” scheme and its successes and the Districts’ housing responsibilities). • Carers Forum. <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young carers (<i>via Ben Jackson as parent link & through written evidence, testimonials</i>). • People being cared for (<i>including the effect on older people of having young carers</i>). <p><i>(refer also to detailed contacts listed in other documentation).</i></p>
<p>Specify Evidence Sources for Documents (which to look at)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission for Social Care & Inspection – “Being a Young Carer” – Views from a Young Carers Workshop. • Guide to Carers’ Organisations – OCC Carers Strategy 2004-05 – OCC (due to be revised and re-written in March 2008); Young Carers Policy (is there a requirement that there should be one?) • New Carers Strategy (in development, from Central Government). • Times Online article – “Crying Out To Be Heard”. • “Doubts on Respite Care” – Oxford Mail article. • Early Years & Family Support Business Plan – 2007/8 -10/11. • The Children’s Board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Every Child Matters” framework. • National Foundation for Educational Research – www.nfer.ac.uk/emie Young Carers page. • Legislation/Guidance (<i>see below</i>). • Assessment documents that may indicate whether the needs of young carers are actually being assessed. • Evidence from other independent research. • Evidence and focus from education and schools’ perspectives. • Evidence from any other reviews. 		
Specify Site Visits (where and when)	To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Carers’ projects. • Other voluntary organisations listed among witness details. • Other authorities. 		
Specify Evidence Sources for Views of Stakeholders (consultation/ workshops/ focus groups/ public meetings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups (possibly). • LGIU “Young Carers: Securing a Better Future” conference – 3 Oct 2007. • Visits. • Interviews. • Written evidence of experiences (not attributed) from young carers. 		
Publicity requirements (what is needed – fliers, leaflets, radio broadcast, press-release, etc.)	Not identified at this stage, but this an issue that will grab the public imagination.		
Resource requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-days • Expenditure 	Anticipate approximately 6 months, which will equate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 40-50 days ○ Approx £2,500 (for conference in October, visits, other research required). 		
Barriers/ dangers/ risks (identify any weaknesses and potential pitfalls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-ambitious in scope. • Difficulties in accessing carers and agencies, and in recommendations being binding upon the latter. • Difficulties in keeping to the projected timescale. • Not achieving review objectives. • Practicality of implementing recommendations, particularly if they are costly. 		
Projected start date	Sept 2007	Draft Report Deadline	26 th February 2008

Meeting Frequency	Sept 12 th , Sept 25 th and Sept 28 th 2007 (for first witnesses) and thereafter, every 2 weeks approximately.	Projected completion date	March 2008
When to evaluate impact and response	March 2009		
Methods for tracking and evaluating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking template. • Lead Member tracking. • Question and answer follow up session at Committee. 		

ANNEX 2

Identification and characteristics of Young Carers

(These are derived from a range of sources that are listed in the bibliography).

How do Young Carers cope? They may experience:

- Emotional difficulties
- False maturity
- Poor nutrition and lack of personal care
- Being bullied
- Poverty
- Poor social skills and isolation.

In school, they can often be identified by:

- Poor attendance
- Being unable to take part in extra curricular activities
- Lack of concentration
- Unable to meet deadlines
- Behaviour problems
- Leaving school with few or no qualifications.

Why do they go unnoticed? “Young carers may conceal their caring role; it is important to give assurance that they and their families will be treated with respect and sensitivity.”

How can they be helped? (In this instance the Review Group meant, by teachers in schools): By:

- An understanding approach
- Making allowances
- Developing individual support plans
- Encouraging parental involvement
- Promoting respect.

“Young carers need to hear that their education matters and that their school will look for ways to help them fully participate and succeed.” (Glos YC)

What type of care do young carers give?

- Offering personal care
- Giving emotional support for the person they are caring for, and the wider family
- Administering medication
- Meal preparation, planning, shopping and budgeting, plus housework
- Care of other family members
- Coping with family pressures.

What impact does caring have on the lives of young carers?

- Mental ill health and psychological problems.
- Tiredness and fatigue
- Physical health problems
- Preventative care.

What main tasks do young carers do?

- Emotional support
- 24 hour personal support, including toileting, washing and putting someone to bed.
- Being the support and backup
- Doing many jobs around the house that the adults cannot do
- Being the one who looks after other children
- Takes messages
- Shopping
- Looking after oneself
- Keeping the cared for person company
- Medication
- Needing to know about how to give out medicines safely
- Taking the person they are caring for out and about.

How does being a young carer affect the child?

- More work and taking on much more responsibility than other children
- Giving up part of one's childhood.
- Costs to one and one's future
- Suffering own emotional and stress problems that begin to damage own mental health
- Caring as "something you just get on with".
- Reactions and prejudices of the public
- Schools need to teach all children more awareness – and basic politeness – towards people with disabilities and their carers
- One doesn't get bullied for being a young carer, but it's just as bad as being bullied if one has to put up with all the comments
- Staff at school keep asking for explanations
- Being a young carer often makes one the outsider in school
- It is the family who get bullied, rather than the carer
- Need for other people to be understanding towards people with disabilities.

What difference does being a young carer make at school?

- Sometimes peaks of heavy caring demand happen at the same time as school is putting a peak of pressure on
- It is important that teachers are aware of what it is like having varying demands on one as a young carer, and that they make allowances

- If doing caring tasks for someone at home, sometimes during
- the night, the carer is simply tired and can't concentrate at school
- The carer's needs and the support the school may plan are not in phase
- A need for a person on the staff at school that they could talk to at any time about their caring pressures
- Schools need to understand that being able to keep in touch is important for both the person being looked after, who may be left home alone, and their young carer
- Poor wheelchair access.

What are the risks in being a young carer?

- Risks of lifting someone heavy
- Cared for person lashing out at the carer
- Risk that one might be getting something wrong in the way one is doing the caring job
- At risk of getting ill oneself
- Need to be taught about how to make traveling less risky
- Young carers need to know first aid.

What should staff working with children and young people be taught about young carers?

- Teachers need to be taught awareness of disabilities and what young carers do
- To be flexible in what they expect
- Need to be aware that young carers will sometimes be stressed
- Offer young carers practical help
- Recognise the needs and wishes of each individual carer
- The "fine line between helping and intruding"
- Being a young carer can make a difference to how the child gets on with other children or young people.
- Staff such as teachers could help either teach, or find the right person to teach each young carer more about the particular disability of the person they are looking after.

The Barnardo's Young Carers "Caring Before Their Time" – a research project from 2004, includes summary pages of findings. The findings are **broadly** similar to the main themes/issues picked up above, plus there are a few other features eg:

- The majority of young carers provide 1-14 hrs care a week;
- One needs to be inclusive in approach;
- Striking a balance between the rights of the cared for and the children who do the caring;
- Need to acknowledge rights of young children as children and carers;
- getting rid of misconceptions about inadequate parenting skills of parents needing the care;

- Emotional and psychological effects; social effects; negative effects on education;
- Particular problems for young carers from ethnic minority groups;
- Lack of clarity with regard to definitions and identification of young carers hinders recognition and awareness;
- UK characteristic (absent in other European countries) of focusing on the development of a comprehensive and integrated support system;
- Identification of positive effects for young people who undertake caring roles;
- Comprehensive whole family approaches.

Oxfordshire County Council Children & Young People's Survey

Key findings with respect to young carers

- **More boys than girls** said they are young carers (15% v 10%)
- More C&YP from **BME groups** said they were young carers than white C&YP
- A particularly **high number of Asian C&YP** look after an ill/disabled parent (22% v to 12% white C&YP)
- A higher number of Asian C&YP also say they look after someone else compared to white C&YP (22% v to 17%)
- Within the BME group, Bangladeshi and Chinese C&YP have particularly high rates of caring responsibilities
- Young carers in Year 7-11 are **less likely to stay on in full time education post-16** than their non-carer peers (81% v 62%) and similarly less likely to aspire to go to higher education (23% v 16%)
- Young carers are more **susceptible to being bullied** (20% v 16% of Year 7-11's looking after a parent) and to **bullying** than their counterparts (20% v 16% of Year 7-11's). However there are no significant findings relating to higher levels of racism, homophobia, name-calling, physical assault or having things stolen
- Young carers are slightly **more likely to skive off school** than other C&YP (21% v 17% of Year 7-11's)
- Young carers looking after a parent in Year 7-11 are **more likely to smoke** than other C&YP (11% v 6%) and **more likely to drink alcohol most days** than other C&YP (11% v 3%). They are also more likely to buy alcohol most days (10% v 2%)
- **Young carers** seem to either **do a lot of activities** (sporty and non-sporty) out-of-school – **or none at all**. This is a different pattern to other C&YP
- Young carers tend to do **less sport at school** than their peers (45% v 56% do 2 hours + p/w)
- Young carers feel more **listened to at school** than other C&YP (28% v 18%)
- Young carers are more likely than other C&YP in Year 7-11 to **have a part-time job** (26% v 18%)
- Young carers are **more likely to be receiving special help** at school in Year 7-11 **for behaviour/learning** (29% v 12%)
- Slightly more young carers in Year 7-11 plan to **leave school as soon as possible** (as opposed to leaving *after* GCSE's) than other C&YP (9% v 7%)
- Young carers **tend to be more involved in democratic activity** and know more about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child than their peers
- **Young carers attend breakfast clubs more** than other C&YP (12% v 4%)

The Children's Society - Key Principles of Practice for Young Carers and their Families.

Funded by the former Department for Education & Skills, The Children's Society is developing Key Principles of Practice which, are intended to be used along side legislation and guidance already in place and, to support agencies to respond to the recommendations of national policy that affect young carers and their families in ways that are sensitive to their needs. Using the Key Principles of Practice will help to ensure the best use of resources and promote whole family working. They also enable practitioners to deliver practice based on the 5 aims of Every Child Matters:

- Be Healthy;
- Stay safe;
- Enjoy and achieve through learning;
- Make a positive contribution to society;
- Achieve economic well-being.

The Principles are:

- There is a need to safeguard children by, working towards the prevention of children undertaking inappropriate care of any family member.
- The key to change is the development of a whole family approach to needs led assessments, to ensure that service provision is child focused and family orientated.
- Young carers and their families are the experts in their own lives and as such must be fully involved in the development and delivery of support services.
- Young carers will have the same access to education and career choices as their peers.
- It is essential to continue to raise awareness of young carers and, to support and influence change effectively, work with young carers and their families must be monitored and evaluated regularly.
- Local young carers projects and other direct services should be available to provide safe, quality support to those children who continue to be affected by any caring role within their family.

ANNEX 5

The experience of one Young Carer

“My brother (X) is 15. He has severe learning disabilities, and some physical disabilities. (X) needs constant care and attention. There are many things that he cannot do for himself, such as bathing, going to the toilet, and preparing food. I help my parents with caring for (X), and I also help a lot more around the house. (X) has no concept of danger, so he needs someone to be looking out for him constantly. He can therefore be hard work to look after, and although my parents never wanted this to get in the way of my schoolwork or social life it was an extra element of responsibility.

(X)'s disability was often made worse by bouts of poor health, and recently with bouts of anxiety. This has been very stressful on the whole family. As mum and dad already had a lot to worry about, I often felt that I didn't want to burden them with my worries or problems, so I often chose to deal with them on my own.

As well as bearing more responsibility, I often was unable to do things that other people my age did because of (X)'s disability. For example, we were not able to go away on holidays abroad, go to theme parks, or even take part in activities such as cycling and walking. As a family we always had to consider (X)'s needs first. Although I was always happy to accept this, it did not make for a normal childhood.

Another difficult aspect was people's reactions to (X). Although most of my friends accepted him, other people of my age did not know how to deal with him, and some even made fun of him. This was very difficult for me to deal with.

I started going to Young Carers when I was 12. At Young Carers I was able to meet with other people of my age who understood what it was like to care for another person in their family. We had regular meetings, and we also went away on trips, either for days out or for short holidays.

Going to Young Carers helped me in a number of ways, as it gave me time away from my responsibilities at home. I was able to meet with other people of my age who understood my situation, so we were able to support each other, and also to help each other forget our responsibilities at home for a few hours while we enjoyed being ourselves. During particularly difficult periods, I was able to meet on a one-to-one basis with XX or YY, who ran the Young Carers Centre, to discuss things that were worrying me. They offered me support and advice, and provided a shoulder to cry on.

However, just as importantly, Young Carers allowed me to take part in activities that I would otherwise not have been able to do, such as scuba diving, abseiling, and visiting theme parks. I went away on an adventure weekend with Young Carers, where I took part in activities I would never have

been able to do on holiday with my family, such as zip wiring and canoeing. It was a really enjoyable holiday, but most importantly, I was able to enjoy myself without having to worry about anything. The fact that I enjoyed Young Carers and got so much out of it meant that Mum and Dad could spend some time alone with (X) without having to worry about me as well, so in that way it was also beneficial to us as a family.”

ANNEX 6

List of expert witnesses and contributors to the Review, in sequence

- Deborah Parkhouse – Children, Young People & Families Directorate
- Andy Couldrick – CYPF
- Alison Partridge – CYPF
- Helen Predgen-Lay – Gloucestershire Young Carers
- Sarah Noviss - South & Vale Carers Centre
- Michaela Warwick – South & Vale Carers Centre
- Verity Falvert-Martin – Oxford City Carers Centre
- Kim Moore-Howell - Oxford City Carers Centre
- Young Carers from the Oxford City Young Carers Project
- Jenny Frank – The Children’s Society
- Michelle Chobanova – The Children’s Society
- Helen Leadbitter – The Children’s Society
- Jenny Hine – The Children’s Society
- Bryony Brown – Oxfordshire PCT
- Jane Bell - Oxfordshire PCT
- Becky Gwynne - Project Officer -Young Carers & Disabled Children - Children Schools and Families – Hertfordshire
- Lorraine Cronin – Professional Assistant for Young Carers - Children Schools and Families – Hertfordshire
- Cindy Honor – Carers in Hertfordshire
- Veronica Jones – North & West Oxfordshire Carers Centre
- Jean Miller - North & West Oxfordshire Carers Centre
- Robert Edwards - North & West Oxfordshire Carers Centre

- Brenda Williams – Secretary of the Council of Oxfordshire Teacher Organisations
- Young Carers from the South and Vale Young Carers Project
- Young Carers from the North & West Young Carers Project

Bibliography

- A Guide to Carers' Organisations and Helpful Contacts – OCC – Feb 2006
- “Being A Young Carer – Views from a Young Carers Workshop” – Dr R Morgan, Commission for Social Care Inspection - 2006
- Caring Before Their Time? - Research and Policy Perspectives on Young Carers - Ann Marie Halpenny and Robbie Gilligan - joint publication by Barnardos and the Children's Research Centre – 2004.
- Carers UK website (and Policy Briefing document 2005)
- “Child Carers left ‘to cope alone’” – A Stickler – BBC News – May 2007
- “Crying Out to Be Heard” – Caroline Scott – Sunday Times – 5 August 2007
- The Children's Society :
 - National Young Carers Initiative – The Include Project – “Supporting Pupils Who Are Young Carers” and “Supporting Pupils with Substance Misusing Parents”.
 - Promoting Whole Family Practice for Young Carers – Raising Awareness of Young Carers and Their Families – A Report for Oxfordshire County Council - 2005
 - Whole Family Pathway (draft) – A resource for Practitioners – 2007
 - Taking Responsibility – Inter Agency Policy for Supporting Young Carers - 2003
 - Newsletter of International Symposium held in Nairobi – May 2006
 - Summary of Legislation and Guidance – Jan 2008
- Children & Young People's Plan 2006-09 – OCC – 2006
- CSCI – “Being a Young Carer” - 2006
- Early Years and Family Support Structure Chart – OCC
- Early Years and Family Support Business Plan – 2007/08 – 2010/11 - OCC
- Gloucestershire young carers website, links and publications:
 - “Minds, Myths and Me” fact pack – 2006
 - C&YP Directorate Contract with Gloucs Young Carers Contract monitoring Board Report – April – Sept 2007
 - “Caring Matters” – Oct 2007
 - A Guide to Supporting Young Carers in Schools” leaflet
 - “Supporting the “Young” in Young Carers”
- Hampshire Young Carers website
- Hertfordshire:
 - Young Carers services in Hertfordshire
 - Young Carers Support Groups in Schools
 - Young Carers (After School) Support Groups across the County
 - Young Carers Project Referral Form
 - Hertfordshire CSF Young Carers Strategy 2007-2012
 - Young Carers Newsletter

BME Young Carers Pilot project Report
Welcome to the Young Carers info pack.
Young Carers – “A Guide to Practice Young Carers in Need” –
Aug 2003

- Hidden Lives – Unidentified Young Carers in the UK – Barnardo’s – 2007
- Oxfordshire Annual Carer’s Forum – 14th November 2007
- Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust:
 - The PCT Carers Action Plan summary
 - PCT Action Plan 2007-2009
 - PCT Carers Action Plan Glossary of Terms
 - GP Carers Information Pack (Feb 2008) containing:
 - A covering letter
 - Two sided summary
 - GP Carers Protocol – good practice example
 - How to identify YC information sheet
 - Staff poster – “Are you carer aware?”
 - Posters for patient waiting areas
 - Patient leaflet – “Are you a carer”?
 - PCT Young Carers summary of activity.
- Oxfordshire’s Strategy for Children & Young People with Caring Responsibilities and their Families – 2005-2008
- SCIE Research Briefing 11: The Health & Well-Being of Young Carers – Feb 2005.
- Service & Resource Planning: Business Plan 2007/08 – 2010/11 - Service Area: Early Years and Family Support – OCC
- Staffordshire Health Scrutiny Committee - health services for vulnerable children (young carers) – March 2005.
- South & Vale Young Carers Project
 - Information booklet
 - “For Young Carers – Are You One? Not sure?”
 - Ideas for Schools
 - Evaluation – March 2007-12-18 Good Practice in Schools
 - Young carers News – July-Dec 2007-12-18”Young carers At School” Pack including DVD – 2007
- Surrey Young Carers website
- The Children’s Society Include Project - Information for teachers and school staff - Supporting Pupils who are Young Carers - 2007
- The Princess Royal Trust for Carers: Young Carers’ policy and website as set out below.
- Young Carers leaflet – Surrey County Council
- Youngminds.org.uk/young carers/
- Young Carers - Oxfordshire’s Strategy for Children and Young People with Caring Responsibilities and their Families - 2005 – 2008
- Young Carers Project – North & West Oxfordshire – DVD “Young Carers – Good Days, Bad Days” - 2008
- Review of Year 1 of the Children & Young People’s Plan – OCC – 2007

Websites

- <http://www.youngcarers.net/>
- http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/families/article/2181920.ece
- <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>
- <http://www.oxfordshire.nhs.uk/carers.asp>
- <http://www.coolyoungcarerscare.com>
- <http://www.carers.org/>
- <http://www.youngcarer.com>

ANNEX 8

Areas of legislation that have a bearing on Young Carers - (Collated By The Children's Society "Include" Project)

Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

Children Act Legislation

The Children Act 2004 and guidance

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/guidance/>

The Children Act 2004 provides the legal underpinning for *Every Child Matters: Change for Children*

Every Child Matters: Change for Children

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/>

Children Act 1989

http://www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/acts/acts1989/Ukpga_19890041_en_1.htm

Assessment

Common Assessment Framework

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/caf/>

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for children and young people is also a key part of the strategy to shift the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children's lives to preventing things from going wrong in the first place. It is a nationally standardised approach to conducting an assessment of the additional needs of a child or young person and deciding how those needs should be met.

Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families Guidance

(Department of Health, 2000a)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4003256&chk=Fss1ka

Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995

Children Act 1989.

National Strategy for Carers

Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/practiceguides/carersguidance/about.asp>

- Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) guidance, ensure that adults' services support

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/financialhelp/ema/index.cfm?SectionID=1>

Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 Section 1

http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga_19950012_en_1.htm

The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000

<http://www.carers.gov.uk/carersdisabledchildact2000.htm>

<http://www.carers.gov.uk/pdfs/practiceguidecarersparents.pdf>

Disabled Persons (Services and Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1988/Uksi_19880094_en_1.htm

Assessment Checklists and Guidance

Young Carers: Something to Think About (Department of Health, 1996)
SSI's Practice Guide to the Carers (Recognition of Services) Act 1995 checklist:

- Listen to the child or young person and respect their views.
- Give time and privacy to children who may need this in order to talk about their situation.
- Acknowledge that this is the way the family copes with disability or illness.
- Acknowledge parents' strengths.
- Beware of undermining parenting capacity.
- Consider what is needed to assist the parent in her/his parenting role.
- Consider the needs of the child(ren) arising from caring responsibilities.
- Consider whether the caring responsibilities are restricting the child's ability to benefit from their education.
- Consider whether the child's emotional and social development are being impaired.
- Remember children must be allowed to be children.
- Provide information on the full range of relevant support services, young carers' groups and contact points for further advice or information on specific issues.

Rights and Inclusion

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/crc.htm>

Department for Education and Skills guidance on behaviour and school attendance

- www.dfes.gov.uk/behaviourandattendance

- www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolattendance.

Further advice about young carers is available at
www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/y/youngcarers/

Children missing education

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/ISA/sharing_Assessment/cme.cfm

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA)

www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/1995050.htm - 22k

Human Rights Act 1998

<http://www.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980042.htm>

The Data Protection Act 1998

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts1998/19980029.htm>

Health

National Health Service (NHS) and Community Care Act 1990

http://www.legislation.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts1990/Ukpga_19900019_en_1.htm

National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services

(Department of Health, 2004)

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/ChildrenServices/ChildrenServicesInformation/fs/en>

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 Section 2

National Service Framework for Mental Health 1999

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4009598&chk=jmAMLk

Fair Access to Care Services Practice Guidance

(Department of Health, 2002)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4009653&chk=nadbwI

Guidance on Recognition

Caring About Carers. The National Strategy for Carers 1999

<http://www.carers.gov.uk/>

Parental Support

The Direct Payments guidance

(Department of Health, 2002)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4096246&chk=PGxkiA

Health and Social Care Act 2001 (section 58) amending for Children Act 1989, section 17 re: Direct payments in respect of children

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/10015--g.htm>

(Social Services Inspectorate Department of Health, 2000b)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsInspectionReports/PublicationsInspectionReportsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4005103&chk=hgrdpJ

Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century 7.40 (White Paper, March 2001) <http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm50/5086/5086.pdf>

The inspection of services for people with learning disabilities (Inspection Standards, Department of Health, 2001)

www.doh.gov.uk/pdfs/stand35.pdf

Section 189(1) of the Housing Act 1996

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts1996/96052-ac.htm>

Documents giving further guidance on legislation relating to young carers are available from:

Social Services Inspectorate (1995) Young carers: something to think about

<http://www.carersinformation.org.uk/showdoc.ihtml?id=421&zz>

Social Services Inspectorate (1996)- Young Carers Making A Start –

<http://www.carersuk.org/Policyandpractice/Research/yceduc.pdf>

contains practical guidance on assessments

The Health and Well-being of Young Carers

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/briefings/briefing11/index.asp>

Helping parents with a learning disability in their parenting role

<http://www.elsc.org.uk/briefings/briefing13/index.asp>

Helping parents with a physical disability or impairment in their parenting role

<http://www.elsc.org.uk/briefings/briefing14/index.htm>

Parenting capacity and substance misuse

<http://www.elsc.org.uk/briefings/briefing06/index.htm>