

Progress update relating to Cabinet recommendations following Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, Scrutiny Review of Young Carers undertaken in July 2008

Report - May 2012 – Deborah Parkhouse, Young Carers Manager OCC

Recommendation	Progress
1. That Annex 2 to the Review is sent to all schools and linked to the Young Carers Strategy.	Completed 2009
2. That Oxfordshire's revised 2008 -13 Young Carers' Strategy when issued, is widely disseminated and adhered to and that the specific educational needs of young carers are addressed.	Completed 2009 Currently working with adult services to refresh the Oxfordshire Carers Strategy 2012 - 2015
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.	Work continues to support schools in identifying and supporting young carers. OCC hold a list of all the nominated school staff who have a lead for young carers. Support and information is regularly disseminated to schools via schools news. OCC Young Carers Development Worker and Spurgeons take a coordinated approach to working with targeted schools. Training via L&D will be offered to all school staff in 2012/13
4. That a guide/protocol is developed for schools, modelled on the practices elsewhere including Gloucestershire and the Children's Society.	We have a number of resources that are used across the county by OCC and Spurgeons to support schools. A model for awarding schools for their progress in supporting young carers is in development - the intention is that young carers are involved in the audit and presentation of the award to their school.
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.	Young carers' groups in each of the Early Intervention Service Hubs. Rural isolation addressed via the development young carers groups in targeting schools and in some satellite areas where need is identified.

<p>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.</p>	<p>Spurgeons (our contracted voluntary sector provider) are part of the National Young Carers Coalition. The Coalition is made up of a numbers of children's and carers' organisations which lobby government relating to young carers' issues. LAs are not part of the coalition however OCC questions and concerns can be fed into the coalition via Spurgeons.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Oxfordshire County Council has commissioned young carers services across the county for more than 10 years, with considerable investment since 2009, and in this time the provision and support for young carers has significantly changed and developed. OCC has employed dedicated young carers' staff since 2004 and continues in its strong commitment to work, together with partner agencies, to identify and support this large vulnerable group of children and young people, and their families.</p> <p>Nationally we are seen as a leader among our peers in relation to our service model and the understanding we have of our population of young carers.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Funding from the PCT for young carers in 2011/12 and again available this year.</p> <p>GP information cards developed and disseminated. Increase seen in number of referrals from primary care teams seen.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>OCC have a Young Carers Staff Team that includes a manager, a development worker, two support workers and administrative support.</p> <p>The PRTC (Princess Royal Trust for Carers; lead national charity for developing work with young carers) state that a good young carers' service needs to cover the following 6 elements to ensure positive outcomes;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Carers shaping development of policy and service (participation) • Changes and transitions • Education • Emotional support and counselling • Whole family support <p>These six elements form the basis for our service plan and delivery.</p>
<p>10. To:</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(c) endorse the roll out of development to local authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completed in 2009 b) Not possible at the time c) We consistently look for opportunities to endorse and share our good practice <p>OCC Young Carers Team worked very closely with the Think Family Champion in the mental health trust last year to develop understanding around young carers within the trust</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Current model of service based on the 6 elements outlined above and uses all the information, feedback and data collected and analysed over the previous four years and has been informed by current national research and pathfinder evaluations. Along with this, we regularly consult with groups of Oxfordshire’s young carers and their parents; and their views and opinions form the foundations of service planning for young carers in the county.</p>
<p>12. That the Review Group RECOMMENDS joint working</p>	<p>Completed in 2009</p>

<p>protocols between adult and children's services (alongside the Schools protocol referred to earlier) for Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>Additional joint OCC Social Care Protocol developed and signed off in 2010.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>OCC Young Carers Budget is a combination of monies from children's services, and adult service carers' budgets. PCT funding for young carers has been available to OCC for 11/12 and 12/13.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Visit from the Princess Royal Trust for Carers (PRTC) in Feb 2012 - commented that Oxfordshire has the perfect model for delivering positive outcomes for young carers. PRTC are looking to recommend our work nationally as examples of best practice.</p>