

Scrutiny Tracking Control Sheet

Title:	Young Carers	Ref:	CH015
Parent Committee:	Scrutiny Committee		
Date Started:	September 2007	Date Completed:	July 2008
Members:	Cllrs Fitzgerald O'Connor, Viney, David Turner and Mr Jackson	Scrutiny Officer:	Julian Hehir
Tracking Member(s)	Cllr David Turner	Directorate Contact:	Hannah Farncombe//Deborah Parkhouse

<p>COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATIONS - numbered 1-10</p>	<p>The Cabinet was 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:</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council/schools should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 young carers are too embarrassed to say themselves 4. Not automatically punish young carers 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 young carers and disability issues in Personal, Social Health & Sex Education lessons 8. Let young carers 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 young carers and where else they can get help in the community; 10. Ensure teachers are offered training on young carers and disability issues both at university and on inset days.
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<p>Cabinet response – July 15th 2008</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed: our work with schools will continue to include the provision of advice, support and challenge, and will continue to focus on identifying young carers as a vulnerable group. 2. Agreed: our work with schools must continue to be informed by the views and experiences of young carers themselves. 3. Agreed: but we are mindful of the increasing range of demands placed on schools all the time, and we need to work with schools to build up the available non-teaching support available for vulnerable groups such as young carers. 4. Agreed: schools must be sensitive to the particular challenges faced by some young carers. We will ensure they get the information they need to do this better. 5. Agreed: Young carers as a vulnerable group need to be able to access and benefit from the increasingly wide range of services on offer as schools develop their Extended Services in Oxfordshire. 6. Agreed: see answers above. 7. There are many demands within the PSHE curriculum: we will, through our Healthy Schools programme, review the coverage afforded to young carers and disability issues. 8. This is a complicated issue for schools. Through effective identification of a young carer and engagement with that young person, agreement can be reached about how to allow the YC to make contact with parents. 9. Agreed: again, we will advise schools. 10. There are many demands within the teacher training curriculum: we will, through our links with local training providers, review the coverage afforded to young carers and disability issues. 	<p style="text-align: right;">Next Review</p>
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Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	Possible Questions: What actions have occurred to progress these principles in Oxfordshire, given the Cabinet’s approval of them?	
	Progress report: Officers ensured that these points were embedded in the new young carers strategy – the school related points are being put into guidance and training which will be rolled out to all schools.	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REMAINING RECS 1-14 REC 1	That Annex 2 to the Review is sent to all schools and linked to the Young Carers Strategy.	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	Agreed: this will be appended to the revised strategy.	Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	Questions: Was Annex 2 sent to all schools and linked?	
	Progress report: Officers ensured that the main principles covered in Annex 2 were embedded into the young carers strategy, particularly in the “enjoy and achieve” section. Officers will develop an action plan relating to the work needed in schools in spring 2010 – this will include specific focus on the points in Annex 2.	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 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.	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	Agreed.	Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	Questions: Has the new strategy been issued now? Are the SEN	

	addressed?	
	<p><u>Progress report:</u> The Strategy (2008 – 2013) has been developed and widely disseminated – feedback has been very positive relating to the design and content of the document.</p>	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 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;	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	Response: Agreed; will be a key element in our revised 3 year strategy, but we can do no more than advise, challenge and support schools to adopt such an approach.	Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	<p><u>Questions:</u> Were schools advised to nominate a single contact? What sort of feedback and progress has there been from and within schools?</p> <p><u>Progress report:</u> The strategy was due to be sent out to all schools in September 2009 backed up by an article in Schools News. Officers will develop an action plan relating to the work needed in schools in Spring 2010.</p>	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 4	That a guide/protocol is developed for schools, modelled on the practices elsewhere including Gloucestershire and the Children’s Society;	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	Response: Agreed. Pack produced by South and Vale Young Carers group, being “rolled out” county-wide.	Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	<u>Questions:</u> Has the South and Vale pack been rolled out yet? If not,	

	<p>why hasn't it?</p> <p><u>Progress report:</u> This will form part of the action plan developed in Spring 2010. South and Vale teachers' pack on understanding young carers was sent to schools in the north and west of the county in 2008.</p>	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 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 Young Carers are able to access support services;	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	Response: Agreed: links with developing 14-19 and Extended Services developments: transport issues a constant challenge in Oxfordshire.	Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	<p><u>Questions:</u> What progress has there been in developing these resources and links?</p> <p><u>Progress report:</u> Issues relating to the rural nature of Oxfordshire and transport needs are highlighted as challenges in the new strategy. Geographic 'reach' was also part of the service specification for the commissioning of the external young carers' services. Contracts have been awarded to organisations which are able to extend services to young carers in all areas of the county. These issues will be an ongoing challenge as the work with young carers develops.</p> <p><u>Further question:</u> Can some examples of the organisations and services be provided for the Committee?</p>	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 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;	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	Response: Agreed, so long as with new legal duties come adequate resources to discharge them.	Next Review

Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	<p>Questions: Was the LGA lobbied? If so, what outcomes can be reported now?</p>
	<p>Progress report: It is not clear whether this recommendation has been put into effect. CYP&F will check and update the committee.</p>
Review 2	
Review 3	
REC 7	<p>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>
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	<p>Response: Three-fold investment in Young Carer services illustrates the Council's commitment to this group. It is within mainstream and universal services that the greatest progress can be made.</p> <p>Total Carers Support Grant share for Young Carers for 2008/09 is £463,026. We would expect this (plus inflation) for 2009/10. The Grant is part of the Area Based Grant. In addition to CSG In addition, we are contributing £37,906 per annum to 2011 from the old Children's Fund and £35,000 via Connexions for a Personal Advisor post within the Young Carers project.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Next Review</p>
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	<p>Questions: What support and progress has been evident around these principles during the last year?</p>
	<p>Progress report: Adjustments to the proposed use of the Area Based Grant linked to Aiming High for Disabled Children have resulted in an approved budget of £370,000 pa for two years to begin to implement the Young Carers Strategy. This includes £147,000 from the ABG (Carers Support Grant and former Children's Fund).</p> <p>Officers are committed to developing the work that the county does relating to identifying and supporting young carers and their families. It is through the development of this area of work that we hope to have a high national presence for good practice and innovation.</p> <p>The Young Carers Strategy has received praise from Spurgeons, a national children's charity, which was inspired to tender for an Oxfordshire contract as a result.</p>

	Further question: It would appear that the grant has reduced in 2009/10. Can this be clarified?	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 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.	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	Response: Agreed, via our strong links to the PCT. It is clear that all carers' issues are an increasing PCT priority.	Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	<p>Questions: Can we have a progress report on closer work with the PCT and GP's in particular?</p> <p>Progress report: Officers have worked closely with the PCT to revise the GP protocol relating to identifying and supporting young carers; training for GP's about young carers was being planned during September 2009.</p>	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 9	To explore the benefits of different staffing models for young carers such as in Hertfordshire, including 4 Professional Assistants for young carers centrally based and working on a locality basis, in Children, Schools and Families (the equivalent in Oxfordshire being the CYP&F Directorate).	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	Response: agreed: will be explored as part of the revised 3 year planning and commissioning strategy.	Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	<p>Questions: Have any new staffing models been explored? We have assumed that they have because the service has just gone through a new commissioning process and has since been re-structured.</p> <p>Progress report: Young Carers Oxfordshire County Council casework service has been planned to make best use of the available resources taking into account the benefits of various models of service delivery. Recruitment of three YC Support Workers and a p/t development worker was taking place during September 2009.</p>	
Review 2		

Review 3		
REC 10	To:	
	<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 young carers;</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>	
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	All agreed: We know there is more work to be done in relation to our “whole family working” strategy, but there is now considerable momentum and commitment to making this happen, and we will work with the Children's Society to pursue this.	
		Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	<p>Questions: Are the Children's Society being asked or have they been asked, to launch the “Key Principles” here? Has the bid been made (b)? If these recommendations have not been implemented yet what progress can be reported?</p> <p>Progress report: Key principles are embedded into the Young Carers Strategy and seen as the basis for all work developed in this area. Officers are planning joint training in Oxford with the Children's Society relating to young carers from asylum seeking families.</p> <p>Officers have attended presentation and training events relating to the work that the Children's Society is developing with local authorities. An application to be part of the project was not made as we were not in the desired geographical location.</p>	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 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	
Cabinet – July 15th 2008	Our first strategy was itself commended and adopted by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers as a “best practice” example. We will seek to maintain the same high standards with the revision, using The Children’s Society materials.	
		Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	Questions: There are no questions as we were commending good practice to adhere to.	
	Progress report: The new strategy is finished and feedback is positive from a wide range of Oxfordshire agencies and organisations.	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 12	That the Review Group RECOMMENDS joint working protocols between adult and children’s services (alongside the Schools protocol referred to earlier) for Oxfordshire.	
Cabinet – July 15th 2008	Agreed: A joint “Whole Family Working” protocol is already in place and operating, and staff are being trained in the issues and in the use of the protocol.	
		Next Review
Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	Questions: What progress is there to report on the training in the use of the protocol etc?	
	Progress report The protocol is in place and training has been undertaken and is planned to continue into the autumn.	
Review 2		
Review 3		
REC 13	It is desirable to achieve a link up of all the resources available on behalf of young carers, 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.	
Cabinet – July 15th 2008	Agreed: Work is ongoing across Children’s and Adult Services, and with the PCT and provider trusts precisely to better join service delivery up.	
		Next Review

Review 1 – August – Oct 2009	Questions: Noted.
	<p>Progress report Officers are working closely with all partners to develop this area of work – links with adult social care are good and services to support young adult carers aged 16 – 25 years are being developed jointly.</p>
Review 2	
Review 3	
REC 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
Cabinet – July 15 th 2008	<p>Agreed: we will look into the “critical friend” model, as well as reporting on progress back to Scrutiny.</p>
	<p>Note:</p> <p>Our strategy will address the issues emerging in the national Carers’ Strategy:</p> <p>Support for young carers needs to be centred on the family and the person they care for, but it must also make sure that young carers do not miss out on educational and other opportunities. In total, the Strategy contains measures worth £6m aimed at supporting young carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action to build effective joined-up support around the family and the person cared for and to shift systems of support towards active prevention. • An extended programme of training on whole-family working for staff in local services. • Funding to embed support and guidance for young carers through the Healthy Schools Programme. <i>This should ensure staff have the resources they need.</i> • Funding for awareness-raising across schools and other children’s settings. • Research on what sort of project-based support works best for young carers. • Materials for GPs and hospital discharge teams to build awareness and skills in dealing with young carers.
	Next Review

	<p>Throughout the remainder of 2008/9, a new Young Carers' Strategy is being developed with the participation of young carers and the involvement of their parents and professional stakeholders. It will prioritise according to what young carers tell us they need. However, it will include commissioning priorities that implement the decisions of Cabinet based on the recommendations of the scrutiny review. The new strategy will be designed to fit within a 'Think Family' ie. whole family support framework, so that young carers' needs are not seen in isolation from the needs of their parents and siblings.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the predicted increase in young carers' share of the Area Based Grant will be sufficient for our needs in the short and medium term. However, it is essential that the Public Service Board confirms that CYP&F should receive 20% of the Carers' money, and that CYP&F continue in its commitment to use it to fund young carers' services.</p>	
<p>Review 1 – August – Oct 2009</p>	<p>Questions: Can it be confirmed that the Children's Society will be 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?</p> <p>Progress report PRTC – Princess Royal Trust for Carers – have been approached to request that they will act as Oxfordshire's critical friend.</p> <p>Further question: When was the PRTC approached (instead of the Children's Society and why?) When is the PRTC expected to evaluate progress with the strategy?</p>	
<p>Review 2</p>		
<p>Review 3</p>		