

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Children, Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing Panel</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b><u>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30am, Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath.</u></b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	<b>Support for Child / Young Carers</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		

### 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 What support is available for children who have suffered from the death of a parent.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Panel is asked to provide information about the support mechanisms / groups that are available for Young Carers and identify if there are any particular gaps in provision.

2.2 Note the update provided.

### 3 THE REPORT

3.1 A young carer under the *Children and Families Act* is defined as a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person. The concept of care includes practical or emotional support.

3.2 Bath & North East Somerset Council has commissioned the Carers Centre to deliver a Young Carers Service, which holds the Councils' delegated authority to provide statutory needs assessments for young carers on request as per The Children and Families Act (2014). The Young Carers Service has a dedicated Team to assess and support young carers locally. The Young Carers Service, in partnership with other services, promote awareness of young carers and ensure that their needs are identified through Early Help assessments, with clear guidance for practitioners.

3.3 The Young Carers Service delivers a wide range of short breaks and youth activities for different age groups throughout the year, which provide opportunities for young carers to have a break from their caring role and spend time with their peers. The activities are informed by young carers and their families.

- 3.4 The Young Carers Service delivers *Wellbeing Groups* for young carers, providing emotional support and strategies for coping with the stresses that come with caring.
- 3.5 The Young Carers Service delivers *Family Events* for young carers and their families, giving them the opportunity to spend quality time as a family and meet and connect other families who may have similar needs.
- 3.6 Occasionally, young carers may require additional 1-1 support. The Young Carers Service either provides this in-house or refer/signpost to an appropriate agency.
- 3.7 The Young Carers Service provide training, advice and information to schools. Schools are encouraged to offer proactive support to Young Carers in their settings, such as Young Carers Support Groups, a 'Delegated Lead' for young carers so that they know who the 'trusted adult/s' are that they can talk to, and ensure there are processes in place for staff to know who the young carers are in their school and guidance on how they can be supported.
- 3.8 If a young carer is bereaved, the Carers Centre would support them to find a relevant service such as *Winston's Wish* or *We Hear You*, who are experts in providing this support. A very small proportion of Young Carers in BANES have had a parental bereavement or are caring for a parent with a terminal condition.

#### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 gives young carers and young adult carers in England a right to a carer's assessment and to have their needs met (if the assessment shows this is needed).
- 4.2 The BANES Young Carers Strategy 2022-24 was developed in partnership with young carers and their families and the BANES Carers Centre.  
<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/bnes-young-carers-strategy>
- 4.3 B&NES Council outlined its commitment to young carers in The B&NES Young Carers Strategy 2022–2024 The Strategy is an excellent example of co-production by B&NES Council, Young Carers and The Carers Centre which set out six priority areas covering Recognition of young carers; What Young Carers Need - Deliver young carers needs assessments on request for all young carers; Support for Young Carers; Help others understand Young Carers; Always involve Young Carers and their families; Growing and changing with Young Carers – Transition primary – secondary- tertiary – adult services as a carer.

#### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 During the last few years there has been a reduction in the availability of other support services for young people. For example, CAMHS and youth services, resulting in increased referrals to The Carers Centre, for some of whose primary needs are not related to being a young carer.
- 5.2 Ongoing inflationary pressures leading to rapidly increasing costs of service delivery e.g., transport costs for young carers who would not be able to access support without it. Utility bills, staff costs etc
- 5.3 Match funding cannot be used for increasing staffing resource and the current contract does not cover the full costs of existing staffing, at the moment this is being funded through the provider's reserves, however, this not sustainable long term.

## 6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 N/A

## 7 EQUALITIES

7.1 The impact of being a young carer has been well researched and documented. The BANES Young Carers Strategy 2022-2024 highlights that without access to appropriate support, young carers can be very vulnerable and at risk of many challenges that can damage their development and ability to care for their families. Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying and stressful for a young person. For young carers, this can negatively impact their experience in education and their mental health. Over a quarter of young carers aged 11-15 regularly miss school (Carers Trust 2021 data). This can have a lasting effect on their life chances. The Young Carers Strategy aims to support young carers to be protected from inappropriate caring, to achieve their full potential, and to have access to the same opportunities as their peers.

## 8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 This report contains information on support for young carers. No climate issues have been identified in the production of this report.

## 9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

## 10 CONSULTATION

10.1 N/A

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<b>Background papers</b>	<a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/bnes-young-carers-strategy">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/bnes-young-carers-strategy</a>
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