

Appendix 7

Memorandum of Understanding

Young Carers



Vision: ensuring young carers are actively protected from excessive or inappropriate caring and parenting roles are supported.

Premise: a young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for that child, risking impacting on his or her emotional or physical well being or educational achievement and life chances.

The Memorandum

1. We will work together to produce a **Multi-Agency Strategy** meeting the needs of young carers.
2. We will promote **early identification** to ensure:
 - Appropriate and accessible information for families
 - Support to avoid inappropriate forms of caring
 - Access to self directed support
 - Schools are supported to identify children with additional support needs and carers
 - Young carers have access to universal services
 - We meets needs of hard to reach groups
 - Engagement with young carers projects
3. We will work towards an **effective assessment** including:
 - What additional services may be needed to ensure care needs are met
 - What help can be offered to the whole family
 - Whether a CAF or Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families is required
 - Whichever service identifies the young carer is responsible for assessing the needs of the young carer in the family contextJoint assessment by adult, children and family health staff will be expected where this is appropriate.
4. Joint responsibility is accepted for **safeguarding**, focusing on working together, early intervention and prevention. We will state clearly the responsibilities of staff under local safeguarding procedure to make referrals. We will ensure staff across all sectors have appropriate training and awareness of safeguarding adults' policy and practice.
5. **Schools** will be encouraged to:
 - Have a staff member with lead responsibility for young carers
 - Develop policy that supports young carers
 - Promote communication and raise awareness about young carers
 - Ensure the provision of personalised and effective school-based support
 - Incorporate in the individual pupil plans recognition and support for the positive aspects of the young carer's role.

6. We will develop co-ordinated approaches for all children and young people in partnership with **health** through encouraging:
 - Healthy eating and lifestyle
 - Breaks for young carers
 - Awareness raising and reduced risks of substance misuse and personal stress
7. We will continue to develop **information, advice and advocacy** for young carers. Advocates should be the young carer's person of choice. They should respect, help and work in the best interests of the young person while being familiar with the requirements of safeguarding children.
8. **Equality and Diversity** - this memorandum applies to all situations irrespective of age, disability, gender, race, cultural or religious beliefs and sexual orientation.
9. We are agreed that timely **information sharing** between our agencies and partners is crucial. Information should be proportionate, relevant, timely, accurate and secure.
10. Particular **issues for joint working**:
 - Transition to adulthood
 - Parents with mental health needs
 - Parents who misuse substances
 - Parents with learning disability
 - Refugee Young Carers
11. We will ensure **periodic audit** of arrangements for young carers.
12. The following general **principles** apply to the expected whole family and joint approach to meeting needs:
 - Adult social care is responsible for commissioning care and support services for adults to meet eligible needs which may reduce and should prevent inappropriate caring responsibilities by young carers.
 - Children's Services are responsible for commissioning services to respond to specific needs of the child or young person; including, those relating to the impact of their caring role on them
 - Shared responsibility exists between us for commissioning services that would support or sustain adults in their parenting role having regard to the individual circumstances.
13. We will work **collaboratively** to:
 - Ensuring that staff are appropriately trained in understanding and exercising of joint and separate responsibilities
 - Being clear about joint and separate responsibilities
 - Ensuring effective arrangements for consultation, communication and feedback for young carers.Disagreements will not get in the way of the service provided for young carers.

Commencement date of memorandum of understanding:

Review date: