

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26TH MARCH 2013

SUBJECT: YOUNG CARERS SERVICE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report was requested by Councillor Woodyatt, to provide Members with information about the services offered for young carers within Caerphilly County Borough.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report outlines some information on the definition of a young carer, the service we commission, some performance information from the project (including outcomes achieved) and some information on the issues faced by young carers.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Children Act 1989
3.2 National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services
3.3 Child and Families (Wales) Measure 2010
3.4 Children's Services Commissioning Strategy
3.5 Young Carers Strategy

4. THE REPORT

Background

- 4.1 The Welsh Government define young carers as children and young people who help look after a member of the family who is sick, disabled, has mental health problems or is affected by substance misuse.
- 4.2 Caerphilly Children's Services and the Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) jointly commission Barnardo's to provide a Young Carers Service within Caerphilly County Borough. Children's Services contribute £76,317.00 per annum and SMAT £36,223.00.
- 4.3 The service is targeted at children and young people between the ages of 7 and 25 years who have a substantive responsibility for caring for a sick or disabled parent or sibling.
- 4.4 The service provides a range of activities to support young carers including:
- Support to access community based activities;
 - Group work activities;
 - Individual support packages; and
 - Signposting to other services.

Monitoring Information

How much did we do?

- 4.5 During 2011/12 a total of 191 young carers accessed the service.
- 4.6 The primary categories of referral were young carers caring for a parent or sibling affected by:
- Mental Health (45%)
 - Physical Disability (20%)
 - Physical Illness (15%)
 - Substance Misuse (14%)

How well did we do it?

- 4.7 During 2011/12 100% of young carers known to Social Services were assessed and 100% were provided with a service.
- 4.8 Thirty compliments were received for the service during 2011/12 and only one complaint.
- 4.9 Young carers accessing the services reported 100% satisfaction with the individual and group support programmes.

Is anyone better off?

- 4.10 Young carers have reported improvement in the following outcomes:
- Increased resilience
 - Increased confidence
 - Reduced impact of caring
 - Improved family relationships
 - Increased engagement in activities
 - Engagement in further education, employment and training.
- 4.11 A collection of case study material, anonymised and collated to form 'A typical day in the life of a young carer' can be found attached as Appendix 1.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's Equalities process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The views of those consulted are included in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The report gives information on the service we provide to young carers, and some information on the issues faced by them.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Case Study