

# Supporting Young Carers in Schools *an online good practice guide*

*A supplementary guide to Coventry's 'No Wrong Doors' Memorandum of Understanding*



Carers Trust Heart of England  
**YOUNG CARERS PROJECT**







## Young carers and safeguarding

Children and young people must not be relied upon to provide excessive or inappropriate care and all practitioners must be able to recognise and respond to risks to children's safety and welfare, especially where they have concerns that children are, or may be, suffering significant harm

Young carers are one and half times more likely to have a special educational need or a long-standing illness or disability



## The Young Carers Project

Carers Trust Heart of England

Phone - 024 7610 1040

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The Young Carers Project is independent of statutory services, funded through Children in Need and Big Lottery

## How can the project support young carers?

We work with young carers aged between 5 and 18 years old and run a range of supported activities, as well as providing one to one emotional support and working with families. We can also support young carers to raise any issues they might be having at school. Our workers have a presence in a number of schools across the city

We also have a support worker for young adult carers funded through the Carers Trust "Programme for Change" who provides support to 14-25 year old carers on issues around managing a caring role and education and/or employment.

Our service is open to all young carers and [more information can be found on our website.](#)

## How can the project support your school?

The Education Worker will provide support to schools in different ways; holding awareness assemblies, referring to our Young Carers and Family Support Worker for 1:1 support, attending meetings, running information/drop in sessions and PS HE lessons.

The Education Worker will also be working with primary schools in achieving the [Young Carers in Schools](#) award. This enables schools across Coventry to effectively provide a high standard of support for Young Carers in their schools.

[More details of this scheme and how to get involved can be found on our website](#)

## Assessing young carers

The Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 introduced new rights and assessments for young carers and their families which, taken together, promote a whole family approach that aims to reduce children's caring roles and responsibilities.

Young carers are more than one-and-a-half times as likely to be from black, Asian or minority ethnic communities

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 has been amended and introduces new rights for young carers in the following ways

- Local Authorities must identify young carers in their area
- Young carers have a right to a needs assessment and support
- The assessment should appraise whether it is appropriate for the child/young person to provide, or continue to provide care, their other needs and wishes and should also identify whether they are a child in need
- The assessment should include the views, wishes and needs of the young carer and the person who needs support, and any others identified by the young carer
- The young carer and the person who needs support should be given a written copy of the assessment
- Assessment and support should address the needs of families through the whole family approach

The Care Act 2014 introduces new measures for assessing adult carers aged 18 and over and young carers in transition – those moving between children's and adult services. The Act introduces new measures that are intended to

- Recognise the changing needs of young carers
- Give young carers in transition the right to a needs assessment in their own right
- Ensure assessments identify their support needs and assess whether they are able and/or willing to provide care after the age of 18
- Ensure any support provided helps young carers in their preparations for adulthood (e.g. education, training, employment, etc.)
- Address the needs of families through the whole family approach (including parenting needs)

Young carers are more likely than the national average to be 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET) between the ages of 16 and 19

**This assessment should start in school through the CAF process**

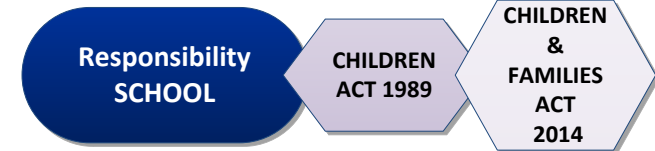
# What to do when a young carer is identified in school

Further guidance  
Coventry Children's  
Services Procedures  
Manual

Further guidance  
Young Carers  
Needs Assessment



Carry out a CAF  
Assessment

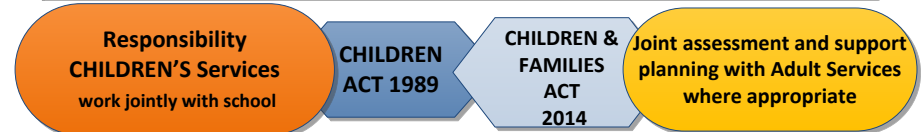


## The CAF assessment must consider:

- Are there safeguarding concerns for the young carer or any other young people in the household?
- Does the caring role appear to be impacting on the young carer's wellbeing, welfare, education and/or development?
- Is the young carer taking on excessive or inappropriate caring roles? (including roles providing support to other children in the family)
- Do parents appear to have any needs for support in carrying out their parental role or to meet their needs as parent carers?
- Does any adult in the household have an appearance of need for care and support arising from a disability or illness / are there safeguarding concerns for this adult?
- Does the young carer need support in school to enable them to reach their full potential?

## Actions to take

Follow safeguarding procedures



This could be a **child in need** or the young carer could benefit from a **more in-depth assessment** of their needs  
Following CAF process and refer to Children's Services

Consider referral to **Adult Services** for assessment of adult's needs or to report adult safeguarding concerns



Plan with the young carer and their family how the school will support

Responsibility  
SCHOOL

*Other guides in this series:*

## **Supporting Young Carers**

*An online good practice guide for health professionals*

*A supplementary guide to Coventry's  
'No Wrong Doors' Memorandum of Understanding*

## **Supporting Young Carers**

*An online good practice guide for social care*

*A supplementary guide to Coventry's  
'No Wrong Doors' Memorandum of Understanding*

*All the guides and the  
'No Wrong Doors' A Memorandum of Understanding for Young Carers  
can be downloaded from*  
**[www.coventry.gov.uk/youngcarers](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/youngcarers)**

*Our local Carers' Strategy is also available on the Council website at*  
**[www.coventry.gov.uk/carersstrategy](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/carersstrategy)**