

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 December 2015

Young Carers in County Durham



Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive, and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children & Adult Services

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to introduce a presentation to members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Young Carers in County Durham. The Presentation will be given by Gill Palin, Strategic Manager in Children and Adult Services.

Background

2. The number of children and young people with caring responsibilities for grandparents, parents, siblings or other adults within the family is unknown to a great extent. In some cases a child or young person may be supporting a parent with caring responsibilities and therefore the young person is overlooked.
3. The Children's Society report Hidden From View indicates that according to census data released in May 2013 there are 166,363 young carers in England and as many young carers remain hidden from official sight making the figure above the 'tip of the iceberg.'
4. The report goes on to inform that one in twelve young carers is caring for more than 15 hours per week; and around one in twenty miss school because of caring responsibilities.

Detail

5. In County Durham the number of known young carers is 4201 according to census information released in 2013. Most young carers, (3029) commit 0-19 hours of unpaid care per week; 655 young carers provide 20-49 hours of unpaid care per week; 517 young carers provide 50 hours or more of unpaid care per week.
6. The Children and Families Act 2014 gives young carers rights to ask for help and requires local authorities to carry out a Young Carers Needs Assessment as soon as they are aware of the young carer. With agreement of both the young carer and the person being cared for the local authority can combine the assessment.

7. In carrying out the assessment the local authority must consider and decide if the young carer has support needs in delivering the care and if those needs are satisfied by local authority services.

8. The presentation will focus on the number of young carers known to the County Council and the help and support offered to them by the Authority.

Recommendations

9. Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the information contained in the presentation and provide comment accordingly.

Background Papers

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – The Equality Act 2010 prohibits less favourable treatment of individuals based on nine protected characteristics. Young carers are protected by this legislation, both by virtue of their age and their association with people with a disability.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None