

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG CARERS- Cambridgeshire Memorandum of Understanding between Statutory Directors for Children's Services and Adult Social Services

Information for young carers, families and workers who support them

What is a Young Carer?

Young Carers are:

"children and young people under 18 who provide, or intend to provide, care, assistance or support to another family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill, or has a substance misuse problem. They carry out, often on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks, taking on a level of responsibility that is inappropriate to their age or development"
Princess Royal Trust for Carers

Why have a Memorandum of Understanding?

Young carers tell us that they value their caring roles and are often proud of what they do. However, we also know that caring for someone can put young people under a lot of stress and result in them not having the same life chances that other young people have. We have adopted the MoU to try and ensure this does not happen in Cambridgeshire, by making it clear what county council staff and those who are commissioned by the county council will do to help young carers.

Who is it for?

The MoU is mainly for young carers, their families and people who work with them, particularly in the county council. It is about how adult social care services and children and young people's services work together.

What are the key points I need to know?

It is our joint intention to ensure that all children are better supported to flourish and reach their potential and not to undertake inappropriate caring by the provision of effective care and support for young carers, siblings and parents who need it. We will strive to achieve this within the resources available to us and the national and local policies and priorities that guide us.

The memorandum is an agreement between adult and children's services that:

- young carers are identified, assessed and their families are supported in ways that prevent inappropriate caring and support parenting roles regardless of which service is contacted first;
- young carers are helped to achieve their potential; and, to have the same access to education, career choices and broader opportunities as their peers
- young carers and their families are involved and listened to when services are planned.

In order to achieve this, it is agreed that:

when a referral is made about a parent with a disability, dependency or illness, agencies consider whether there is a child in the family who is providing personal care, practical help or substantial emotional support or who is otherwise adversely affected by the illness or disability.

If a young carer is identified, the person who has identified them must take responsibility for ensuring their needs are assessed. This will include adult services staff.

The assessment will be carried out by children and young people's services, either using children in need assessments, or the Common Assessment Framework.

It may be necessary for adult and children and young people's services to assess jointly.

Who can I contact for more information?

To find out more, please contact Juliet Snell, chair of the Cambridgeshire Young Carers Strategy Group; Juliet@centre33.org.uk



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