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Young carers

Guidance to support schools and colleges at a time when young carers become a 'legal entity' for the first time.

The Children and Families Act, introduced in April 2015, includes measures to support young carers. This new legalisation places responsibilities on schools and colleges, outlined in section 5.

'Hidden from View', a 2013 report by the Children Society tells us 'Caring can cost young people dearly if they are not given opportunities to participate in all aspects of life. Many young carers need support because they can miss out on a huge range of opportunities that so many other children and young people take for granted. Children must be allowed to thrive and enjoy their childhoods, not to be relied upon to take caring roles that are too often inappropriate.'

Early identification and support for young carers is crucial if we are to avoid the potential negative impact that caring can have on their lives, affecting their education, future chances of employment and economic success. There are over 166,00 young carers across the UK, with as many as 1 in 5 children having a caring responsibility.

Tackling the problems young carers face is not only good for vulnerable young people and their families – it could also be good for schools and colleges, reducing unexplained absence, improving behaviour and the setting's performance.

Schools and colleges can contribute by:

- identifying young carers in their school community
- working alongside other agencies to provide access to assessment and relevant services
- developing whole school or college policies and working practices in their setting that promote the health and wellbeing, child development, educational achievement and transition into adulthood of young carers

The document in the related documents area contains guidance and information on how to help young carers in your school or education setting.

[The Carers Strategy guide](#) sets out the priorities that will shape the delivery of support for carers

across health and wellbeing services.

[CarersTrust](#) has useful resources to download including a "[supporting young carers in schools toolkit](#)".

[The carers action plan 2018 - 2020](#) available from GOV.UK, sets out how the government will improve support for carers in England over the next 2 years.

[Derbyshire Young Carers' Service](#) provides support to Young Carers across the county. The Local Authority's statutory young carers services are provided by Derbyshire Carers Association. Following a referral, a young carer will receive a family assessment and then be given access to one to one support, groups and activities. Free support is also available for schools, through training, awareness raising and guidance with supporting young carers and increasing the number of young carers identified by schools. The Young Adult Carer Service supports Carers aged 18 – 25 with the transition to Adult Carer Services.

Schools can apply for the Derbyshire Young Carers School Award, accredited in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council to acknowledge their support of young carers. Please contact Derbyshire Carers Association for further information, email: youngcarers@derbyshirecarers.co.uk or tel: 01773 833 833.

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Related documents to download

[Derbyshire young carers service information](#)

[28 January 2020 - 662.6 KB](#)

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Also see

Allegations against professionals

Derby City and Derbyshire County have guidance and procedures for when a person's behaviour at work, home or online, may cause concerns about their suitability to work or volunteer with children or young people.

Child protection record keeping guidance

Guidance for schools, colleges and educational providers in Derbyshire, on managing child protection/welfare records which includes record keeping, conferences transfer, storage and retention.

Children in entertainment and employment

Advice on licensing children to work in certain types of performance or activity in England.

Domestic abuse notifications

Domestic abuse notifications to schools.

PE and changing facilities

Guidance on the safe use of changing facilities in schools.

Safeguarding looked after children (children in care (CiC))

Guidance for the designated teacher responsible for looked after children in schools.

Safeguarding model policies

Model safeguarding policies for schools to use and link to schools' health and safety information.

Safer working practices

[Information and guidance on best practice for a safer working environment within schools and educational settings.](#)

School complaints

[Guidance on school complaints.](#)

When to contact the police

[Advice for school and college staff on when it is appropriate to contact the police.](#)

Write to

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Matlock
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DE4 3AG

Phone

01629 536789

Email

schoolsnet@derbyshire.gov.uk

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