

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

12th JULY 2021

REPORT OF DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES: YOUNG CARERS AND YOUNG ADULT CARERS REPORT

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Corporate Parenting Board members with an update on the work with young carers in RCT, particularly during the pandemic.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the information contained within the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This is an information report.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of several reviews carried out in 2018 of carer support services in RCT, the Young Carers Service was developed to fit into an all-age support model for unpaid carers.
- 4.2 Most notably, the assessment function for young carers and sibling carers was brought into the wider Information, Advice and Assistance Service for children and young people to meet statutory requirements.
- 4.3 ICF funding was successfully obtained to create an all-age Carers Hub centrally in Pontypridd. It is anticipated that this refurbished space will become the base for both the Carers Support Project and the commissioned young carer support service from September 2021.
- 4.3 The support service for young carers (aged 5-17) continues to be provided on a commissioned basis by Action for Children. Specific

support is available via an externally funded post for Young Adult Carers (aged 18-25). Sibling carers (children whose sibling has additional needs) receive limited support via the Carers Support Project.

4.4 The full report for RCT Young Carers and Young Adult Carers 2020/2021 is attached in Appendix 1. Members may wish to note the below key details:

- The young carers support service changed their support during the pandemic to provide more one-to-one session instead of group support. The most vulnerable were prioritised. At times when restrictions were eased, they were able to bring young carers together in smaller groups. Online support has worked well for the older young carers (aged 11+) but is not a substitute for face-to-face support.
- Referral rates for assessment of young carers dropped during the lockdowns and were closely linked to whether or not the schools were open. During Q1 2021/2022 the referral rate was above average.
- Securing online access for young carers was a priority during the pandemic and was achieved in many ways, including liaising with schools, delivering Chromebooks with mobile Wi-Fi and facilitating grant schemes for purchase of digital equipment.
- Efforts are being made to secure ongoing funding and resources to deliver specific support to sibling carers, who often have different needs to young carers. During 2021/2022 a pilot project will be funded to deliver outcome-focussed support over an intensive 6-week period. The course will concentrate on emotional wellbeing.
- RCT launched the Young Carer Card in March 2021. The card is a Wales-wide initiative led by Welsh Government and RCT were one of the early adopters of the scheme. A promotional video was launched during Carers Week 2021. The card allows young carers to highlight their role to education and health professionals without needing to tell their full story, and in time it is envisaged the card could be used to receive discounts and other benefits.

4.5 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg report on the regional work carried out during 2020/2021 is attached as Appendix 2 for information.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This is an information report.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 This is an information report.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no direct financial implications aligned to this report.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 came into force in April 2016 and is intended to transform the way services are delivered. It repeals the majority of community care legislation including the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010.

8.2 The newly published National Plan for Unpaid Carers will become important for developing strategies and delivering support to carers of all ages going forward.

9 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

9.2 The business covered in this report contributes to the following well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A globally responsible Wales

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 Young carers were significantly affected by the pandemic and support services going forward will need to focus on dealing with the ongoing consequences.

10.2 Work to adopt an all-age cohesive service approach to unpaid carers will continue, with the commissioned young carers service due to co-locate with the Carers Support Project from September 2021.

10.3 The new National Plan for Unpaid Carers will inform regional and local carers strategies and priorities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 – RCT Young Carers and Young Adult Carers Annual Report
20/21

Appendix 2 – [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers End of Year Progress Report 220
– 2021](#)