

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MARCH 2022

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 during 2021/2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

Acknowledge the information contained within the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 This is an information report.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 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.

4.2 The assessment function for young carers remains within the Information, Assistance and Advice Service for Children's Services.

4.3 The all-age carers hub in Gelliwastad Road, Pontypridd, is now operational, with the Carers Support Project, the Young Carers Services, the Young Adult Carers Project and the Sibling Project all under the same roof.

4.4 The full report for RCT Young Carers and Young Adult Carers 2021/2022 (to date) is attached in Appendix 1. Members may wish to note the below key details:

- There has consistently been a higher than average rate of referrals for young carer assessments throughout the year.
- Similar to last year, a higher level of one-to-one sessions were provided to young carers this year to mitigate the continued restrictions on group work. Face-to-face group sessions were held when possible to provide young carers with a break from caring, including trips in the summer and Christmas parties.
- There are indications that the pandemic has significantly affected the health and wellbeing of young carers, and that it has increased the caring responsibilities for many.
- A pilot project has trialled a bespoke service for sibling carers. The project is based on a six-week period of intensive support to improve emotional wellbeing and resilience, followed with opportunities to take part in a range of activities throughout the year. This pilot will be evaluated at the end of the year to determine a way forward.
- The Young Adult Carers Services has had limited staffing during the year, but a new worker is now in post. Most support has been provided online and there is a need to deliver more face-to-face activities for this group of young people.
- There are various other pieces of work worth noting throughout the year, including the further development of the Young Carer Card, the Carers Covid film and the Young Carers Schools Award.

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 National Plan for Unpaid Carers published in early 2021 will become increasingly 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.

9.1 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
2021/2022.