

The
Children's
Society

Monitoring the outcomes of identification and support for young carers

Helen Leadbitter
National Young Carers Lead

Setting the Scene

Young and young adult carers gained additional rights through the Children and Families Act 2014 and Care Act 2014. Rights to:

- **Be identified and not be ‘Hidden from View’.**
- **An assessment of their needs.**
- **Have their future needs considered.**
- **A ‘Whole Family Approach’.**

There is an explicit requirement which states that children’s and adults services must cooperate with each other and other relevant partners, including GP practices, housing, educational providers and others including the voluntary sector; this duty is reciprocal in order to identify young carers, prevent and reduce inappropriate and excessive caring responsibilities being taken on by children.

Similar duties have also been placed on NHS England and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to promote integration with care and support under the NHS Act to identify young carers and reduce harm.

Key principles to underpin practice:

The starting point should be to assess the needs of the adult or child who needs care and support and then see what remaining needs for support a young carer in the family has.

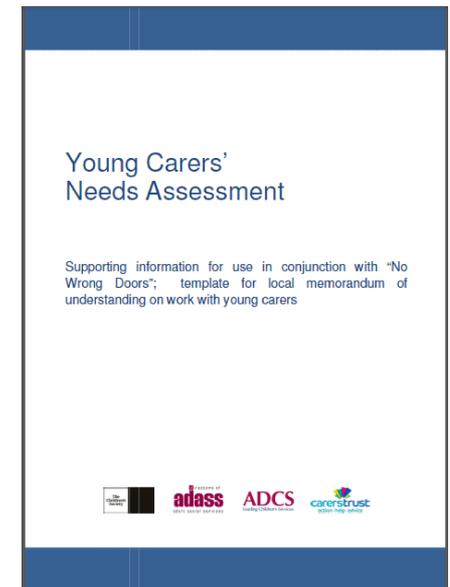
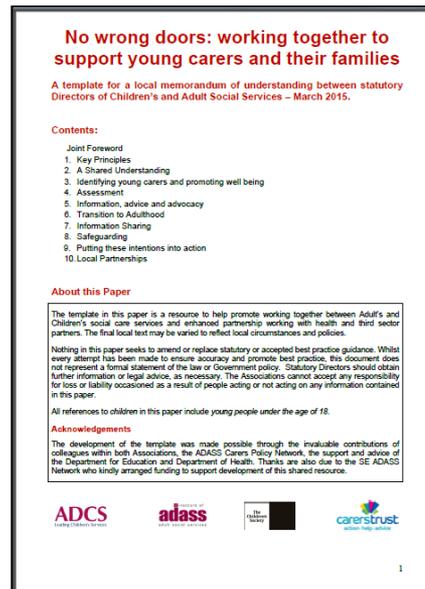
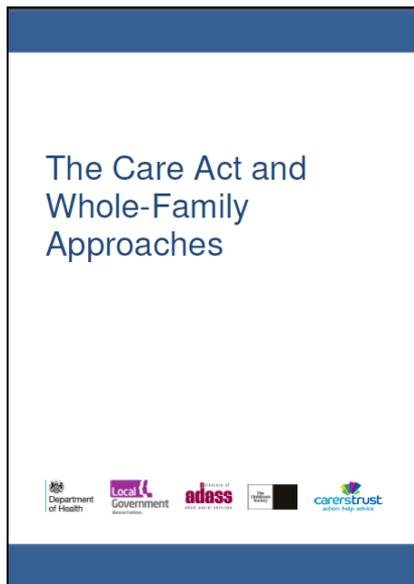
The presence of a young carer in the family should always constitute an appearance of need and should trigger either an assessment or the offer of an assessment to the person needing care.

A whole family approach is key when assessing an adult needing care where there are children in the family providing care to the adult or undertaking wider caring responsibilities. **The adult's assessment and eligibility for support should take into account their parenting responsibilities and the functioning of the family.**

Key documents

Same principles:

- Whole council responsibility
- Whole family approach
- Joint working
- Prevent a child from taking on the responsibility for offering a level of care that is inappropriate and/or excessive and affecting their own wellbeing



The Care and Support Statutory Guidance: Issued under the Care Act 2014 (Department of Health, October 2014) states:

As a minimum, the process of developing a local plan should include: building into the plan opportunities to record, measure and assess the impact of information and advice services rather than simply service outputs. (3.59)

That ‘Outcomes should be used as a principal measure for quality assurance of services.’ (4.16)

In determining an approach to engagement, local authorities should consider methods that enable people to contribute meaningfully to: Setting measures of success and monitor on-going service delivery including through the experience of people who use services and carers (4.63)

Since 2015 the implementation of these duties has been variable across the country.

Currently the data collection and the monitoring of whether local authorities are delivering the duties outlined for both young carers and young adult carers is both variable and piecemeal across the country.

There is confusion about what is required by government regarding data monitoring and there is different levels of planning and prioritisation for young carers and transitioning young adult carers being carried out by local authorities across England.

The Office of the Children's Commissioner report on young carers (2016) highlighted differences in the recording rates of young carers and young adult carers within local authorities' performance and monitoring reports.

Therefore, the monitoring of completed assessments with young carers, or the type of completed assessment i.e. transition assessments, is not always considered as a requirement for data sharing with the local authority and so young carers' data is not always systematically shared across different agencies. Additionally, at a national level Government is not currently collecting data or monitoring whether local authorities are delivering the duties and outcomes for young carers.

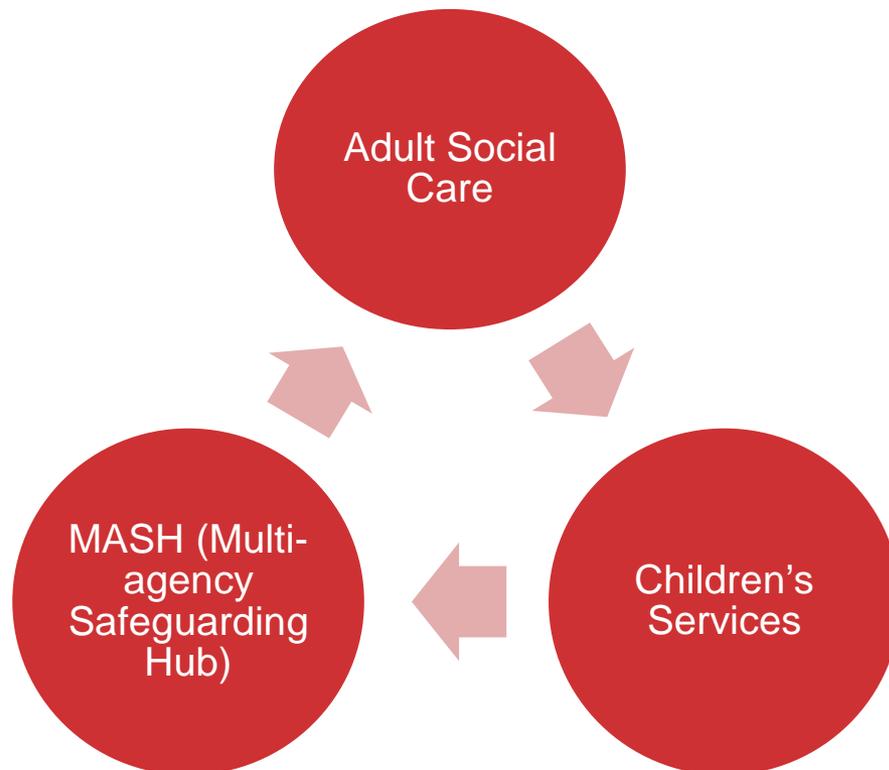
Young Carers

The support provided to Young Carers in England

December 2016

The Referral Pathways

Our consultation and research with a number of Local Authorities is that, whilst the Local Authority believe that the pathway to statutory assessment for young carers is in place and adequate, some staff and external service providers making referrals often find it challenging to navigate the system and organise an assessment for a young carer.

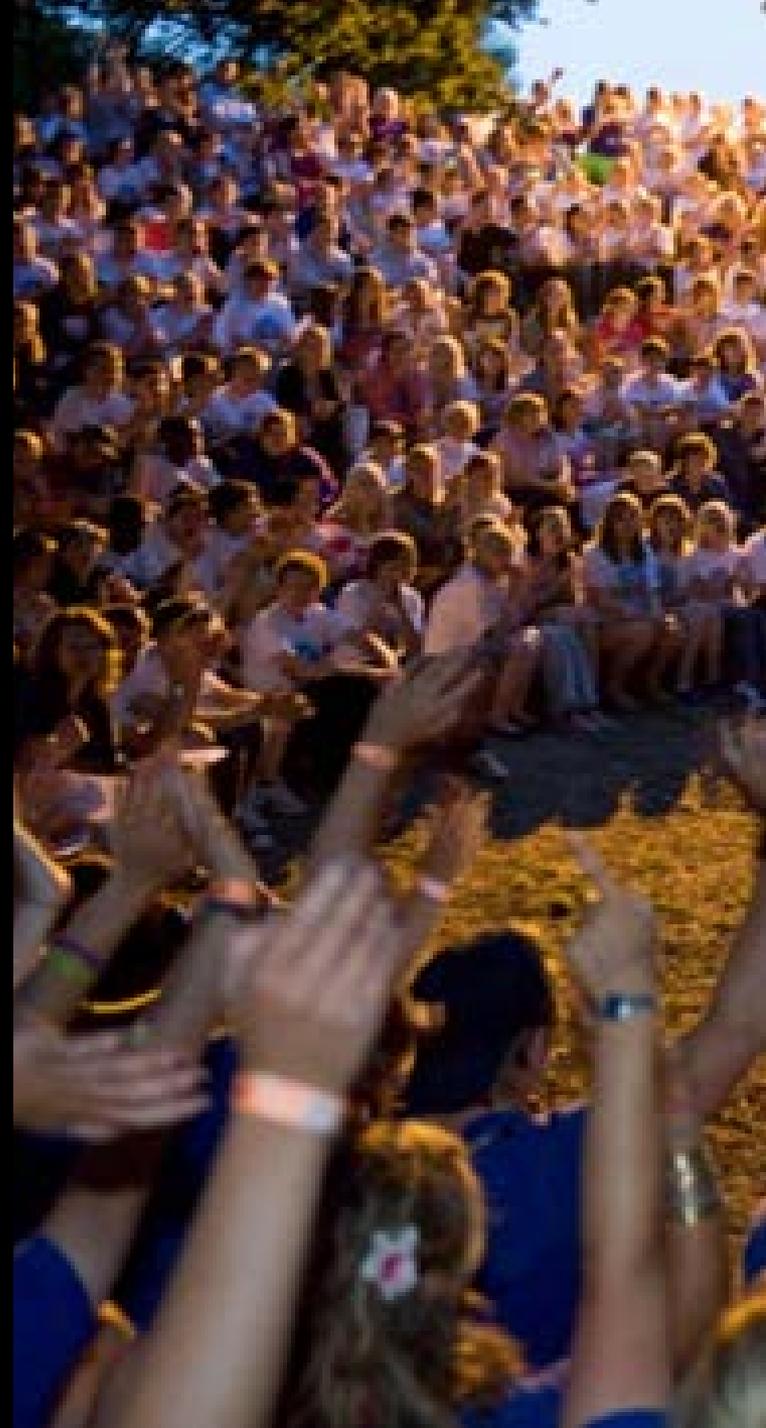


What's Needed?

As support for young carers is now a specific statutory obligation a system for tracking how young carers and young adult carers, are identified and supported is required.

Local carers strategies should include the monitoring requirements for young carers and young adult carers.

Mechanisms should be devised where local authorities can identify the numbers of known young carers, their receipt of an assessment and support for the whole family in their areas and there is a need for a more effective system for collecting data nationally.



National data gathering

The Government's annual **Children in Need Census** records where issues around young carers were noted as having been reflected in the outcomes of an assessment. However, this is reliant on a worker ticking a box to note this outcome. In addition there is no indication in this data of what happened following the assessment that benefit and support the young carers.



Key Issues and Principle Challenges:

Measuring the impact of a whole family approach to supporting young carers across a local authority is challenging in many ways, including:

- Many young carers in a local authority may not have been identified or assessed and therefore benchmarking the outcomes of support is not possible.
- Young carers are often negatively impacted by their caring role not in one, but often in several different domains, including health, education and their social life as well as impacts associated with transition to adulthood such as being NEET.
- Young carers will take on caring roles at different ages and roles and responsibilities vary between young carers and over time. The extent to which they impact upon a young carer will also depend on many factors, including their developmental stage and resilience factors.
- Effective support for young carers should be preventative and therefore as well as evaluating the reduction in negative outcomes for young carers who have support in place, a major aspect of evaluation should be how well prevention through a whole family approach is working.

Practical challenges faced by local authorities can include:

- Databases ‘not talking to each other’
- Information sharing issues
- Lack of clarity about what to measure
- Lack of capacity to undertake assessment reviews and collect data to measure progress



DHSC will conduct a review of best practice in identification of young carers and access to support and will fund a project which focuses on young carers from disadvantaged and seldom heard groups, to increase the timely identification of particularly hidden young carers and to support better identification among Black, Asian and minority ethnic families



Most arm-linked people to stand up simultaneously



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Who

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY, YMCA FAIRTHORNE, UK YOUNG CARERS

What

301 PEOPLE

Where

UNITED KINGDOM (BOTLEY)

When

30 JUNE 2018

The most arm-linked people to stand up simultaneously is 301, achieved by The Children's Society, YMCA Fairthorne and UK Young Carers (all UK) in Botley, UK, on 30 June 2018.

The attempt took place at the 19th annual Young Carers Festival to raise awareness for the need to support young carers by local authorities.

Related Records

Most people in a singing relay-multiple songs

Largest human image of an interactive map marker

Most paper snowflakes made by a team in one hour

Largest dessert decoration lesson in 24 hours (multiple venues)

Largest greetings card exchange

Largest boat logo/image



Young Carers Festival 2018 'I'm Here. Right Here. Stand up and be Counted'

Thank You

Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information:

**The
Children's
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helen.leadbitter@childrenssociety.org.uk