Review into identification practice of young carers in England
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Research aims

Carers Trust, with NatCen, commissioned by the Department for Health and Social Care to carry out exploratory research to review, evidence and share best practice in identifying young carers.

intended to support joint working between the statutory and voluntary sectors, and wider communities
to achieve better identification and support of young carers
Research aims

The review involved research with key stakeholders and practitioners in Young carers services and statutory agencies to:

- explore the main drivers and barriers and enablers provide in-depth insights into ‘what works’
- highlight, where possible, the challenges faced by ‘seldom heard’ young carers
- identify ways in which local agencies and organisations can work together to identify and provide appropriate support
Methodology

- 35 interviews were conducted with stakeholders
- Deeper analysis of practice was explored with five case study areas.
- Online survey of young carer services - 52 responses.
- Online survey of local government - 33 complete or partially completed responses.
Identification practice

- Statutory services: Adults and Children’s social services
- Health: GPs and hospitals
- Education: Schools
- Voluntary sector and multi agency working
General issues around identification

- Perceived normality
- Cultural and familial expectation
- Fear and stigma
- Limited professional knowledge
Common barriers

- Unclear roles and responsibilities
- Capacity issues
- Ineffective systems
- Knowledge and skills gap
- Misunderstood, vague or non existent duties
- Financial constraints
Enablers

- Senior strategic leadership
- Transformed services and systems
  - Integration into wider pathways
  - Active working together protocols
  - Multi-agency strategy and defined partnerships
  - Designated carer leads
- Upskilling the workforce
- Focusing on identification as early as possible
Recommendations

- Oversight and scrutiny
- Leadership
- Transformation and investment
- Workforce development
Thank you

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