2-minute briefing

Young Carers

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carers are young people under 18 who help to look after someone in their family who is ill, disabled, or misuses drugs or alcohol. They carry out, often on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks and assume a level of responsibility which would normally be associated with an adult".

What the Law says

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced new rights for Young Carers.

Since April 2015, Young Carers are entitled to an assessment of their needs by the local authority. The needs assessment should evaluate how the needs of the person being cared for have an impact on the needs of the child.

Indicators:

- Often late or missing days or weeks off school for no reason
- Often tired, anxious or withdrawn
- Having problems socially or with making friends? Conversely, do they get on well with adults and present themselves as mature for their age
- A victim of bullying? This is sometimes explicitly linked to a family member's disability, health or substance misuse problem.
- Finding it difficult to concentrate on their work
- Having difficulty in joining in extra-curricular activities or is unable to attend school trips?
- Not handing in homework on time, or completing it late and to a low standard
- Displaying behavioral problems
- Secretive about home life
- Showing signs of neglect or poor diet

The nature of the care provided by Young Carers can be very broad and include:

Personal care
E.g. dressing,
washing,
toileting needs

Practical tasks E.g. cooking, housework, shopping Looking after siblings E.g. putting to bed, walking to school Administering medication E.g. insulin needles, preparing daily tablets Interpretation
E.g. for
hearing/speech
impairment or
English as an
additional
language

Physical
care
E.g. lifting,
helping up the
stairs,
physiotherapy

management
E.g. paying bills,
managing
finances,
collecting benefits

Household

support
E.g. listening,
calming, being
present

Emotional

Further information

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Caring for someone - North Lincolnshire Council (northlincs.gov.uk)

Karen Hackett (School improvement officer - Safeguarding) January 2022