

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Meeting

11 November 2010

Findings from the Task and Finish Group on Young Carers in Plymouth

1. Panel Members

Councillor Mrs Stephens (Chair)
Councillor Wildy (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Mrs Nicholson

For the purposes of the review, the Task and Finish Group was supported by –

Claire Oatway, Head of Service – Performance and Quality
Mark Collings, Children's Fund Programme Manager
Amelia Boulter, Democratic Support Officer

2. Witnesses

The Panel interviewed a range of key stakeholders and officers.

3. Key Issues and findings included -

- the need to improve the collaboration between Adult and Children Social Services with the pooling of resources and training;
- the need for a strategy to be developed for schools to help identify young carers and to give the appropriate support;
- to ensure a consistent approach is taken on how we target universal services to young people;
- to ensure the quality of assessments undertaken at the clients' home to identify a potential young carer;
- that each school to have a named individual of senior standing to ensure that all young carers have a plan for educational and other necessary support;
- to look at the training provided on this subject and to widen this training to include practitioners, teachers, school governors/inclusion governor etc;
- Young Carers Strategy to be owned in the Carers Strategy;
- that the Parent Support Advisors play a significant part in identifying young carers and are an independent person at the schools;
- looking at Hidden Harm and this vulnerable group and how we highlight this;
- that sensitivity is needed around the administration of EMAs;
- to recognise the work undertaken by the Zone and thanks to be extended Plymouth Young Carers Group and Hamaoze House for their excellent work;
- the DVDs to be shown to a wider audience, e.g. all members prior to a Full Council meeting and to panel members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.