

## CITY OF PLYMOUTH

**Subject:** Young Carers  
**Committee:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 8 March 2011  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Mrs Watkins  
**CMT Member:** Director of Services for Children and Young People  
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**Ref:** YC T&F 1  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Part:** I

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### Executive Summary:

The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel, through a Task and Finish Group, undertook a review of young carers' identification and support during October.

The panel report is attached (Appendix A) and included the following recommendations:

1. DVDs on Young Carers and Hidden Harm to be shown to a wider audience, e.g. to members prior to Full Council, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Health and Adult Social Care Panel;
2. Plymouth City Council should lead a media campaign to raise awareness of young carers in Plymouth;
3. Plymouth Young Carers at Efford, The Zone and Hamoaze House should be praised for the good work they do with young carers;
4. PCC should review, resource and plan for adequate support for all young carers; especially if more young carers are identified;
5. The level of joint training around young carers and Hidden Harm among Adults' and Children's workers should be addressed urgently;
6. A protocol to ensure closer working between adults' workers and children's workers must be developed;
7. PCC should provide young carers with assistance for carers duties, including safe lifting;

8. PCC must ensure improved collaboration and commissioning between Adult and Children Social Services. This includes clarification of funding responsibility and possibly pooling of resources;
9. Young Carers should be given more prominence within the Carers Strategy and supporting activities;
10. Adequate funding should be identified for appropriate respite for young carers;
11. Progress is reviewed after six months by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.
12. PCC uses its links through the Local Strategic Partnership to seek comments on the report from other agencies, such as the family court, probation, Children's Trust, etc.
13. When a young carer is identified by Adult Social Services, that worker must trigger a referral to complete a full young carers assessment as part of the adult care plan;
14. PCC should provide young carers with assistance for carers duties, including safe lifting;
15. Young carers should be identified as a vulnerable group by all agencies working with children and be provided with additional support where appropriate;
16. PCC should work with schools to develop a strategy to help identify young carers and to ensure appropriate support is given. This includes an identified Governor/Inclusion Governor, to be trained in identifying young carers, and a named senior staff member to ensure young carers have a plan of educational support;
17. PCC should evaluate existing services to ensure the universal offer is appropriate;
18. Schools should ensure sensitivity and priority is given to young carers on the administration of school support or welfare funds;
19. Headteacher representatives should come forward with proposals to audit and identify young carers in schools.

It is recommended that the report's recommendations are accepted with minor amendments:

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|-------------------------|---|
| Recommendation 3:       | Other services supporting young carers, such as the Friends of Families of Special Children should also be praised for the work that they do to support this vulnerable group |
| Recommendations 4 + 10: | It is accepted that PCC should review services for young carers within the limited resources it has available. Additional sources of funding should also be explored.         |
| Recommendations 7 + 14: | This expectation should be extended to include additional partners such as Health   |
| Recommendation 18 + 19: | The wording be amended to "Invite ..... to" rather than direct.   |

## **Corporate Plan 2010-2013 as amended by the four new priorities for the City and Council:**

Young carers' issues cut across a number of Council and Plymouth2020 partnership priorities, especially Aspiration and Inequalities. The recommendations contained within this report should be taken into account by the Council and all agencies when making decisions with regard to the future delivery and development of services to adults and young carers.

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land**

The Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 is currently being developed and may need to include some of these recommendations. Services should be reviewed to ensure cost effectiveness and where appropriate universal services such as schools and youth provision should be encouraged to do more to support this vulnerable group.

Current budget plans do not include specific additional monies for expansion of young carers' services and it is expected that the improvements recommended are achieved within existing resources. National changes to grant allocations may, subject to ring-fencing rules, reveal additional funding and it is expected that the Carers Strategic Group should explore whether this is possible.

However, many of the recommendations are practical and can be achieved through better information sharing, partnership working and a more customer focussed approach to practice.

There are no direct implications for IT or land.

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### **Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.**

Young carers often live in families where a person (adult or child) has a disability or where domestic abuse or substance misuse are an issue. The recommendations included here provide additional support children living in those environments to help them to develop and grow.

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### **Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:**

It is recommended that the report's recommendations are accepted with minor amendments:

Recommendation 3: Other services supporting young carers, such as the Friends of Families of Special Children should also be praised for the work that they do to support this vulnerable group

- Recommendations 4 + 10: It is accepted that PCC should review services for young carers within the limited resources it has available. Additional sources of funding should also be explored.
- Recommendations 7 + 14: This expectation should be extended to include additional partners such as Health
- Recommendation 18 + 19: The wording be amended to “Invite ..... to” rather than direct.

**Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:**

The recommendations could be rejected, but the area of young carers’ identification and support has had cross party support in the past. The recommendations have a sound factual basis and every effort should be made to continue to improve services, albeit within limited financial resources.

**Background papers:**

Young Carers in Plymouth report

**Sign off:**

Fin	SAC hS03 17/17. 2.11	Leg	LT 11032	HR		Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member Claire Oatway											