

## **Young Carers Referral Process Pathway**

The young carer's pathway has been formulated between the Early Intervention Service, Children's Social Care and Adults' Services. It illustrates the process to be followed when a child or young person is identified as taking on caring responsibilities, such as:-

- domestic help in the home
- general and nursing type care
- intimate personal care
- childcare

The pathway brings together the joint working between Children's and Adults' Services to enable early identification of young carers and the assessment of their needs. It also enables a coordinated package of support, taking into consideration their caring role.

### **The objective of the pathway is:-**

- To clarify the referral pathway and assessment of young carers
- To identify the needs of the young carer in a timely manner and ensure the appropriate package of support is put in place to meet the young carers needs
- To embed a whole family approach across Children's and Adults' Services when assessments are undertaken
- To ensure the level of caring responsibility for the young carer remains safe and is not excessive (i.e. not having a detrimental impact on their well-being)

The provisions for young carers included in the Care Act 2014 is intended to link with provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014. This is to provide a clear framework for both Children's and Adults' Services to take a whole-family approach.

This involves professionals;

- Assessing the needs of young carers to recognise how the child's wellbeing and development is affected by their caring responsibilities;
- Understanding the extent to which this care is relied upon by those being cared for and the wider family.

## **Appendix A:-**

This pathway illustrates the assessments and services available to young carers considering their level of need and the continuum of change.

### **Referral to Children and Young People's First Contact:-**

When a child or young person is identified as having a caring role for another person, irrespective of the level of care being given, a CFAN (Child and Family Assessment Notification) should be completed and submitted to the Children and Young People's First Contact.

Within 24 hours of receiving the referral the child or young person will be reviewed.

### **Screening:-**

#### **The main functions of screening are to;**

- ensure each referrer receives an electronic acknowledgement confirming receipt of their referral
- identify any additional information required in conjunction with our partners to help support the assessment and decision making process taking into consideration the whole family approach
- identify whether the child or young person requires social care response
- record contact information to support any previous or future referrals
- ensure demographics of a child or young person is input in a timely manner on the LCS system
- check with Adult First Contact that they have knowledge of the adult person being cared for

The Screening Officer will decide whether a referral should be sent to:

1. Young Carers Project
2. Education and Early Intervention
3. Access Intervention Panel
4. Children's Social Care
5. Referral to Adult First Contact (for the adult being cared for)

### **Young Carers Project**

If the screening officer considers the young carer's needs:

- do not present significant concerns or they are living in circumstances which can be resolved quickly
- require low level guidance and support
- require respite from their home situation
- require a place to engage with other young carers to exchange experiences of caring

A direct referral should be made to the Young Carers Project. The project offers a wide range of activities to support young carers, including:

- Information, advice and 1-1 support
- Opportunities to meet other young carers
- Fun activities, outings and respite from home
- Regular drop in sessions
- Homework support
- Advocacy support

### **Education and Early Intervention**

If the screening officer considers the young carer's needs can be met by the range of services available within the Education and Early Intervention Service, a direct referral will be made to services such as:

- Education Welfare
- SEN
- 14-19 Team
- Youth Service
- Schools Advisory Team

The screening officer, will also notify the Young Carers Project of the young carer so respite activities can be offered.

### **Access Intervention Panel (AIP)**

If the referral is sent to the AIP panel, the CFAN form together with information gathered by the screening officer will be used by the panel to help assess and understand information about the young carer and their family to determine:

- the amount, nature and type of care which the young carer provides
- the impact of the caring role on the child or young person's education, personal and emotional development
- whether the caring tasks undertaken by the child or young person are inappropriate or excessive
- whether the young carer's needs can be met by offering a more specialist intervention

The panel will decide which service within the Family First and Intensive Support Team will best meet the need of the young carer. However, if it is considered that the needs of the young carer are above the threshold of this service, step up to Social Care will be discussed within AIP as per the Step-up protocol.

### **Children Social Care**

If it is deemed by the screening officer that the young carer meets the threshold of a 'child in need':

- the referral will be sent to Childrens Social Care for a Sec. 17 assessment
- notification will be sent to Young Carers Project so respite activities can be offered whilst the assessment is being undertaken

- On completion of the Sec. 17 assessment, the Young Carers' Project should form part of the social care plan.

### **Adult First Contact**

All assessments received by Adult First Contact, for adults with a care or support need will be screened to establish if there are young carers in the family. This is important to ensure the level of caring responsibility undertaken by the child or young person is appropriate and parenting responsibilities are considered.

The screening will: -

- ensure the voice of the young carer is captured in the assessment
- assess whether a young carer is undertaking the caring role, if yes; an inter-agency referral form should be completed and submitted to Children and Young People's First Contact

### **Self-Referrals**

Should a young carer self-refer to the Young Carers' Project, a needs assessment will be offered. If accepted, the officer will complete a CFAN form with details of the young person's caring responsibilities together with details on household members. The CFAN form will be submitted to the Children and Young People's First Contact.

### **Young Carers Transition to Adulthood**

Where a young carer is approaching the transition age of 16 to 'adulthood' a joint assessment should be undertaken between Children Services and Adult Services to determine if the young carer: -

- will have support needs after becoming 18
- will continue to provide care for the person being cared for
- requires support to participate in further education, training or employment.

The 'transition' joint assessment should be initiated by the lead professional at the young carers 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and completed no later than six months prior to reaching the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

If the young carer is only receiving support from the Young Carers Project at the time of transition, an officer from this project will initiate the joint assessment by completing a CFAN form to arrange a professionals meeting.

#### **Appendices: -**

Appendix A - Young Carers Pathway

Appendix B - CFAN Assessment Form