

Agenda Item	12
Report No	HCW-08-22

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Date: 10 February 2022

Report Title: Young Carers Statements

Report By: Executive Chief Officer – Health and Social Care

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Committee on the 11th August 2021 a presentation was provided regarding the Young Carers Strategy. This report provides an update on the work undertaken to ensure that all Young Carers will receive the offer of a Young Carers Statement.
- 1.2 The report provides a background to the statutory duties on all local authorities in relation to Young Carers Statements and provides members with an update on the work been taken by the Young Carers partnership group.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the content of the background information in relation to the statutory duties for The Highland Council in relation to Young Carers statements
 - ii. Note and comment on the progress being made in ensuring that all Young Carers receive the offer of a Young Carers Statement.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – Resource implications regarding the increased provision of Young Carers Statements to all Young Carers will be considered by the working group
- 3.2 Legal – The legal provisions are outlined at 4 of this report

- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) – The inequality of the provision of the offer of Young Carers Statements across the Highland area will be considered by the working group.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – No implications identified.
- 3.5 Risk – The risk to Young Carers of not having their rights met are rehearsed within this report.
- 3.6 Gaelic - No implications identified.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 places a number of statutory duties on all local authorities.
- 4.2 The definition of a young carer within the Act is ‘an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual (the “cared for person”). The carer is not doing paid or voluntary work with the “cared-for”. A young carer is under 18 years old or has attained the age of 18 years while a pupil at a school.
- 4.3 Young adult carers are young people aged 16 to 25 years old who provide unpaid care for someone else with an illness, disability, mental health, alcohol or drug misuse issues.
- 4.4 Being a young carer is a big role for any young person to take on. They risk becoming vulnerable if the level of care they are required to give and the responsibility they have for the cared for person becomes excessive or inappropriate for their age and stage
- 4.5 Due to the impact of COVID-19 many young carers have experienced an increase in their caring role due to schools being closed and regular support services for their cared-for being reduced or closed. The care and support that young carers have provided has been invaluable during this time.
- 4.6 Caring for others is not always a negative experience and there is a need to ensure the lives of children and young people are not restricted, and their experiences and opportunities are not limited as they grow up. The Scottish Government understand that children and young people should enjoy the same range of experiences as others of their age.

5. Young Carers statement

- 5.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 places a number of responsibilities on all Scottish local authorities and health and social care partnerships to support unpaid adult and young carers in a different way. Duties included in the Act are the provision of a Young Carer Statement
- 5.2 The Scottish Government have replaced Carer Assessments with Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements.
- 5.3 The Young Carer Statement must be offered to all young carers, but they can choose to decline this.
- 5.4 The Young Carer Statement must combine the identification of the young carer’s personal outcomes and an assessment of their needs. It should also identify the help needed to achieve the personal outcomes.

- 5.5 This process incorporates Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the eight wellbeing indicators (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included).
- 5.6 The Highland Council has a duty to prepare Young Carer Statements, even if the young carer is not deemed eligible for support. In these circumstances, the Young Carer Statement should include signposting and access to any relevant supports, for example universal or community-based services.
- 5.7 Young Carer Statements will be reviewed when the caring role changes, for example increases or decreases. It will also be reviewed prior to young carers commencing exam preparation and where a young carer's capacity to manage their caring role changes, for example, a change in a young carer's health and wellbeing. The statement will also be reviewed at times of transition, for example primary to academy, young carer to young adult carer.
- 5.8 A Young Carer Statement is a support plan that contains information about how much caring a young carer is doing and if they are able and willing to do it. It details what sort of care is undertaken and whether it is appropriate for them to do it. It details the help and support needed to make sure that young carers are healthy, safe and happy.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 A Young Carers group has been re-established in recent months and is currently considering its terms of reference. Membership of this group includes representatives from Health and Social Care, Education and Learning, Revenue and Customer Services and 3rd Sector organisations across Highland that offer help and support to Young Carers.
- 6.2 The group recognises that there is a need to update the Young Carers strategy and is actively working to revise the policy, processes and procedures to ensure that all Young Carers will receive the offer of a Young Carers Statement.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Health and Social Care

Date: 14 January 2022

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