



Shildon Town Council

Young Carers Policy and Procedure

Effective from 13th February 2017

What is a Young Carer?

A young person under 18 years of age who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem.

Caring can involve physical or emotional care, or being responsible for someone's safety and wellbeing. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often inappropriate to their age and beyond the level of simply helping out at home as part of the process of growing up.

Durham County Council, like many other councils, have adopted the: Working Together To Support Young Carers and their Families, Memorandum of Understanding 1 and agree that the term "young carer" should be taken to include children and young people under 18 who provide regular and on-going care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.

Policy

Shildon Town Council believe that Young Carers have the same rights as all other children and young people and should have access to the same facilities, services and support that is available to other young people in County Durham. Shildon Town Council acknowledges that young carers have other needs. In order to address the needs of young carers, Shildon Town Council is working in collaboration with The Bridge Young Carers Service, part of Family Action, in County Durham.

As part of this collaboration, Shildon Town Council have signed up to the County Durham Young Carers Charter and pledge to support young carers in the following ways (taken from the charter):

1. We will strive to recognise young carers in the work that we do.
2. We have an identified member of staff, (Kath Regan) to lead on support for young carers.
3. We ensure that everything young people tell us about their caring responsibilities stays private and confidential unless we have their permission to share, they are unsafe or at risk of harm.
4. We will commit to having young carers information readily available to our staff and service users.
5. We have worked with The Bridge Young Carers Service to have a dedicated policy for young carers.
6. We will continue to work with The Bridge Young Carers Service on these issues.

¹ Association of Directors of Social Adult Social Services, Association of Directors of Children's Services and The Children's Society, *Working Together To Support Young Carers and their Families, A Template for a Local Memorandum of Understanding [MoU]* between Statutory Directors for Children's Services and Adult Social Services 2012, ADASS/ ADCS/ The Children's Society.

Procedure

If any Shildon Town Council staff identify someone under the age of 18 as being a young carer, or believe a person under the age of 18 may be a potential young carer, they should contact the named person as identified above. Arrangements will then be made to meet with the family and discuss support pathways. This may include making a referral to The Bridge Young Carers Service or contacting the project for further information.

Shildon Town Council agree

- to work together to develop a shared understanding of support pathways available to young carers.

Signed: P.A. Roberts

Date: 13/2/17