

County Durham Young Carers Charter

Organisations & Agencies Pathway

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High 5 to Health Principles

The Bridge Young Carers Service has adopted the High 5 to Health Principles to underpin the work we do with Young Carers to help keep them safe and healthy.

The High 5 to Health Principles are:



The County Durham Young Carers Charter helps us to support the children and young people we work with as part of our early help provision.

Young Carers Charter

The Young Carers Charter is an important element of the early help provision.

Working with schools, colleges, organisations and adult services, the Charter allows us to expand support and services for Young Carers across County Durham.

Those wishing to gain Charter status are required to provide evidence against specific pledges of support that were developed with Young Carers.

Schools and colleges are required to sign up to 13 pledges with adult services and other organisations signing up to six pledges. Charter status is in place for a period of two years. After this time a re-evaluation exercise takes place for it to be renewed.

Through gaining Charter status, schools and colleges are showcasing their commitment to supporting a vulnerable group within their community. This is an important addition for any educational establishment and is highly regarded by OFSTED inspectors. Other services are also highlighting their commitment to supporting Young Carers, especially in the healthcare sector where the Charter is viewed favourably by the CQC.

Such organisations are then able to build on this commitment and provide additional help, support and signposting for Young Carers and their families.

A programme of working with schools, colleges and other organisations is in place and can be rolled out in a group format or used individually with those wishing to gain Charter status.

Our vision is to get the Young Carers Charter out to as many schools, colleges and organisations across County Durham as possible to ensure there is 'no wrong door' for Young Carers to ask for support.

County Durham Young Carers

Charter

County Durham believes that Young Carers are young people first and carers second. They 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 across the County. However, young people who are also carers have other needs, which this organisation pledges to support.

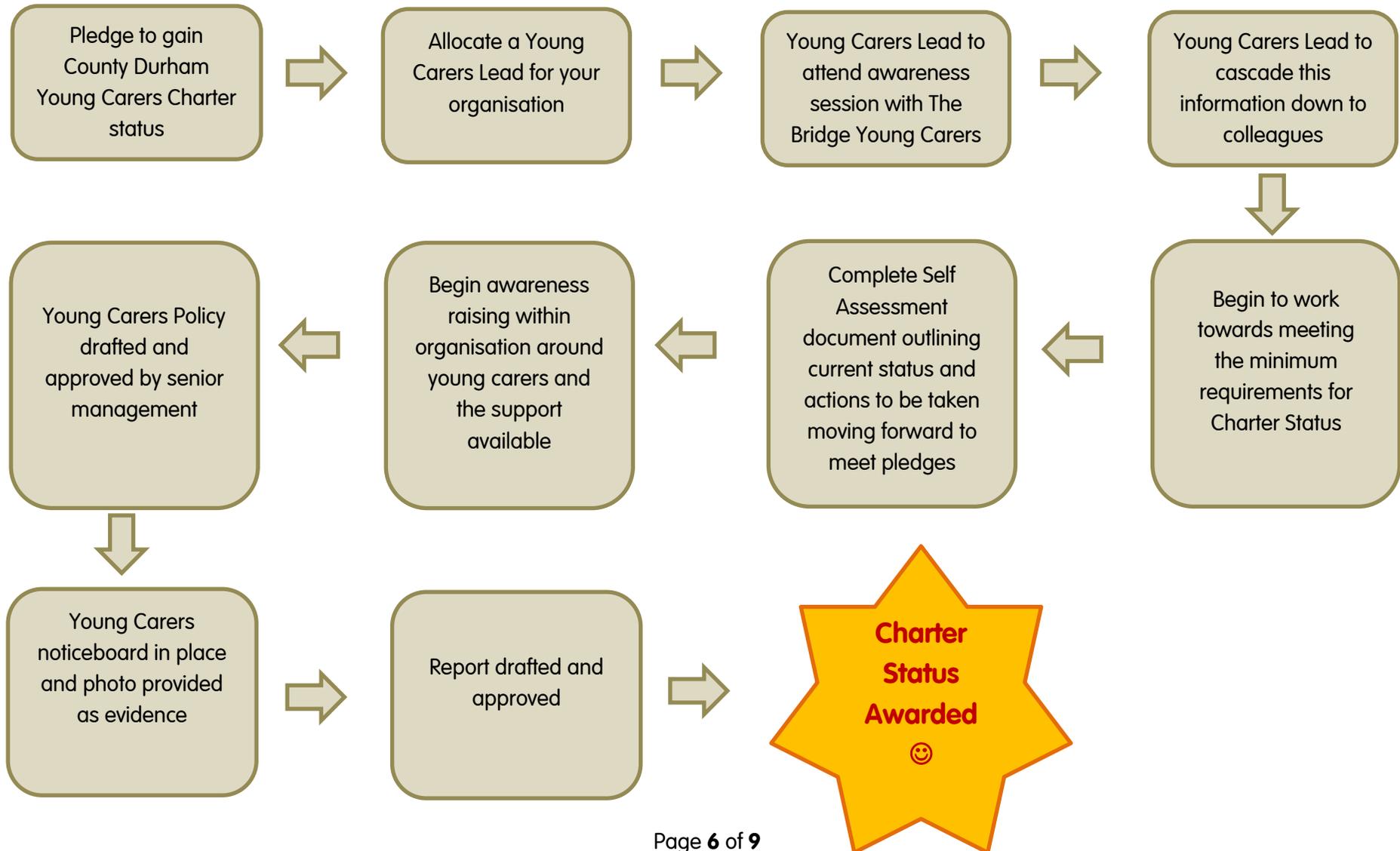
We.....
pledge to support young carers in the following ways.

1. We will strive to recognise and identify young carers in the work that we do.
2. We have an identified member of staff 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.

From.....To.....



Young Carer Charter Process



What Support is Available?

The Bridge Young Carers Service provides support to you in order to gain Charter Status.

We deliver an awareness session outlining the following information:

- An overview of the team;
- Outline of the work we do;
- An awareness of what Young Carers face and what it is like to be a Young Carer;
- Details on the requirements of meeting Charter Status.

This can be delivered as a stand alone awareness session for your organisation or agency or ideally we have found it helpful to deliver this to a cohort of individuals from a number of different organisations and agencies as this is more time and cost effective.

By delivering the training in a cohort, it also allows those taking part to learn from one another and to share best practice ideas of how they may implement the Charter within their organisation.

A key requirement for the Charter is that, as an organisation, you pledge to having young carers information readily available to both staff and service users. In order to do this we encourage you to create a noticeboard display. We are able to provide information and posters to display on your noticeboards as a starting point when you initially create this.

It is also a requirement that the organisation has young carers considered within it's policies and procedures. Again, we are able to offer support in this area and are happy to share a draft Young Carers Policy that you may wish to amend to suit the style of your organisation and it's values.

If you would like copies of any of this information, please do not hesitate to contact The Bridge Young Carers Service and we will happily share this with you.

Throughout the process, The Bridge Young Carers Service is available and happy to provide support for any queries you may have.

YC Charter Checklist

The following are minimum requirements to be met, before Young Carers Charter Status will be awarded.

Evidence Required	Completed/In Place?
Commitment to gaining YC Charter Status	
YC training attended by at least 1 member of staff	
YC Lead allocated (minimum of 1 required)	
Complete self assessment tool	
YC Policy drafted, ratified by senior management & in place	
Dedicated YC noticeboard erected (photograph to be provided to confirm)	
Awareness sessions delivered	

The above Checklist outlines the minimum requirements of meeting Charter status.

We actively encourage organisations and agencies to go above and beyond these requirements, and be as creative as they wish, in order to support Young Carers.