**Young Carer information Dec 2018**

Introductions

Definitions

**What is a Young Carer?**

Wiltshire Council’s definition of a Young Carer is:

Someone aged from 5- 18 whose life is affected by caring for at least one family member, over and above just “helping out”. Young Carers might look after:

* Parents
* Siblings
* Close relatives

**What do young Carers do?**

Children and young people help to care for a parent or other relative, for different reasons and in different reasons and in different ways. These might include because of a:

* Disability
* Illness
* Mental Health problem
* Drug and alcohol related issues

Young carers can provide practical and emotional support such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, personal carer and medication, and simply being there for company and love, offering reassurance.

**Numbers of Young Carers**

**National figures:**

National Census 432,000 YC under 18. BBC 2018 research 1 fifth of all children are YC

**Local figures:**

Wiltshire wellbeing survey supports these figures: 20% self -identified as a YC

**Impact of caring? Why refer?**

* Social isolation
* 68% experienced Bullying
* Tiredness
* Anxiety, guilt or anger about caring situation
* Difficulty concentrating
* Twice as likely to be NEET ( Not in Education, Employment or Education)
* 48 days average of school missed

**Referral pathway**

**Professional referrals only VIA**

DART (Digital Assessment and Referral Tool)

SARF (Single Assessment Referral Form)

Assessments completed by **Wiltshire Council** **Families and Children’s Team** under **Children and Families Act 2014** LA must assess needs: All Young Carers under 18 **have a right to an assessment** of their need (No matter who they care for, what type of care they provide, or how often they provide it.)

NB: Carer Support Wiltshire do not complete Assessments or provide support direct to Young Carers. Support is commissioned through Youth Action Wiltshire. This differs for carers over 18.

**Support available**

Activities and breaks delivered by Youth Action Wiltshire including Information and advice e.g condition specific, health and safety, social contact with other YC.

Once Ax completed and YC identified –WC will inform relevant GP surgery.

**What you can do**

* Recognise YC
* Do you help look after someone VS are you a carer
* Signpost YC to YC Carer Support Wiltshire website for information e.g **Myth busting**/ **YACBOOK**
* Ref via SARF Referral information on WC website
* Queries relating to individual Young Carers should be directed to Jill.Bourne@wiltshire.gov.uk
* Queries relating to advice and information for professional about the identification and awareness of YC to Sharon@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk 01380 819598