

North Lanarkshire Young Carers Project
Townhall Business Centre
1/11 High Road
Motherwell
ML1 3HU

Tel: 01698 258801

Fax: 01698 254899

Email: NlyoungCarers@actionforchildren.org.uk

REFERRAL CRITERIA

What age group do we work with?

The project works with young people between 7 – 18 years of age.

What area do we cover?

We cover all over North Lanarkshire.

What is a young carer?

A Young carer has a caring role as a consequence of a family member's disability, mental health problem, HIV or AIDS, drug or alcohol misuse or long term illness. Here are some of the tasks which a young carer may be performing:-

Shopping, cleaning the house, cooking, etc
Household management/budgeting
Intimate personal tasks such as feeding, dressing, washing and toileting
Emotional support
Responding to demanding or unusual behaviour
Caring for siblings
Having responsibility for their own care that would normally be expected of an adult

What is the difference between a primary and secondary carer?

A young carer can be either of these. A primary carer would be the main carer within the family even if another adult is present who is capable of providing this care. A secondary carer may be less involved in providing care but still offering support to a level which impacts on them socially, educationally or in their development.

North Lanarkshire Young Carers Project

REFERRAL CRITERIA Cont.....

What levels of support can a young carer expect from us?

We can offer the following support, where appropriate :-

One to One
Group Work
Information, advice and advocacy
Recreation and play
Involvement in the Youth Forum – (AGE 16+)
In School support

The project can also offer support, where appropriate, to other family members in relation to anything which impacts on the well-being of the young person.

So why work with young carers?

Young carers are a diverse group of people, who have unique experiences and varied responsibilities. The one thing they share is that their caring role will have an impact on the opportunities for social and recreational activities which they can enjoy. Often the demands of their caring role can impact on their school attendance and what they can achieve within the school setting. In some instances young carers can be at greater risk of being looked after or accommodated due to lack of parental care or being out with parental control. The consequences of the duties that they may carry out as a young carer may result in the following:-

Fear, anxiety and stress which they are unable to share with anyone
Inappropriate physical demands such as heavy domestic duties, which in some cases may involve lifting the relative concerned
Undertaking inappropriate personal care

Task of this kind can have a detrimental effect on the young person's mental, emotional and physical health and development.

Restricted educational attainment due to regular lateness or absenteeism from school

Poor concentration due to disturbed sleep patterns and worry which can subsequently result in loss of career opportunities

Difficulty in establishing and maintaining friendships or pursuing social and recreational activities

The loss of childhood / having to mature before one's chronological age

Increased likelihood of poverty associated with the loss of parental income

Stigmatisation

Risk of being accommodated

North Lanarkshire Young Carers Project

REFERRAL CRITERIA Cont.....

What happens after you send in a referral?

All referrals will be discussed with the referrer and a home visit arranged to determine whether the young person is appropriate for inclusion in the project. A service plan will be developed and copies given to all relevant persons. Reviews will be carried out on a regular basis and all decisions will be discussed with the young carer, their families and anyone else who the family have agreed to be kept informed. At reviews we will determine the young carers level of need and our involvement with the young carer will be time limited.

If there are any further queries, please contact project staff and we will be happy to discuss these with you.

action for
children
Scotland

WE HAVE BEEN FOR AN INITIAL HOME VISIT AND HAVE AGREED THAT YOUR SON / DAUGHTER IS A YOUNG CARER

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



You will be notified the day they will attend, the regularity of their involvement and when they will be subject to a review.



If, for any reason a group or an outing has to be changed or cancelled you will be notified as far in advance as possible



Normal practice is that young people should be collected from and dropped off at the family home. If for any reason this has to be changed staff should be made aware by parents or carer of the alternative arrangements. Contact numbers should also be given so that staff can ensure these arrangements are adequate.



If there are any problems with dropping young people off, either due to no one being at home or concerns about their safety when being dropped off, staff are obligated to involve social work services.



In the past there have been instances where no one was at home when drop offs at the arranged time took place. This has led to inconvenience for staff and other young people and stress for the young people concerned. If for any reason a parent / carer has been held up **THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE STAFF TO LET THEM KNOW.**

There are normally a number of young people in the van during drop offs and staff have to ensure they act responsibly in regard to all people who receive our services. This is also in line with our Safer Care agenda which is designed to ensure the welfare of the child is paramount. (See our Safer Care Leaflet)



If such situations arise and there is no clear plan identified, the project staff will have no alternative than to notify social work services.



Should you be unhappy with any aspect of the service you receive or any decisions made in relation to your child, you can deal with this through AFC Complaints Procedure. Details of this will be provided for your information.



AFC Young Carers Project is committed to offering a quality service to the young people who use our service. Our aim is to work in partnership with them and their families and any other agencies involved.