

# Derbyshire Young Carer Practice Guidance April 2015

Approval and Authorisation Name	Job Title	Date
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## 1. Introduction

### Definitions

Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 defines a young carer as;

*“...a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work).”*

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 defines a child as being in need in law if:

*“He or she is unlikely to achieve or maintain or to have the opportunity to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development without provision of services from the Local Authority;*

*His or her health and development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired without provision of services from the Local Authority,*

*He or she has a disability.”*

### Derbyshire Profile

Derbyshire is estimated to have approximately 1,650 young carers aged between 5 and 18 years of age. The volume of young carers rises steeply from the age of ten years old. At any one time approximately 50 Derbyshire young carers are estimated to be contributing over 30 hours of care per week, whilst a further 120 contribute over 15 hours of care per week. 500 Derbyshire young carers will be delivering between 5 and 15 hours of care per week,

whilst the remaining 980 provide up to five hours a week. Older young carers disproportionately deliver the most care.

Over 50% of young carers care for someone with a physical disability and a further 30% care for someone with a mental health need. The remaining recipients of care are across learning needs, sensory disability and substance misuse. Many young carers are caring for individuals with more than one need at any one time.

Research indicates half of all young carers contribute to the care of siblings and 40% care for an adult, most often a parent. Young carers that come to the attention of young carer services are most likely to be those caring for a disabled adult. Many young carers remain unknown to services, often caring for more than one family member at the same time, including grandparents. It is estimated that the volume of young carers has risen by 10% in the last decade.

Young carers make a significant contribution to the provision of care in Derbyshire. Their contribution is often detrimental to their own quality of life; health, education and future life chances.

### Assessment

From April 1st 2015 CAYA is legally obligated to pro-actively offer and provide an assessment of need to each young carer it identifies or receives a referral for. Derbyshire will use the Early Help Assessment. The local authority must categorically record whether or not it considers the young carer needs should, or should not be met via a Section 17 categorisation as defined in the Children Act 1989.

The local authority is also required to provide a joint or coordinated assessment across CAYA and Adult Social Care if it is apparent an adult with care and support needs would benefit from an Adult Social Care assessment. This requirement is mirrored in the Care Act 2014.

*Joint* is interpreted as the CAYA and Adult Social Care worker undertake a home visit in person and together (if the family agree).

*Coordinated* is interpreted as the CAYA worker and the Adult Social Care worker liaise and work closely in order to obtain maximum holistic benefit to the whole family from the assessment/s and any attendant services.

Childhood development opportunities such as time to play out and have fun to the sitting of GCSE and A Levels pass 'in the blink of an eye'. All local authority staff should aim to effectively support young carers by delivering

young carer assessments and services promptly thereby enabling each young carer the best opportunity to make use of their childhood life chances.

## **2. Summary of the Key Young Carer Changes Introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014**

### **From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015:**

1. The local authority must take “reasonable steps” to identify “the extent to which” there are young carers in their area with needs for support.
2. On identifying a young carer, the local authority is required to actively offer needs assessment.
3. The right to assessment is extended to all young carers under age 18 regardless of whom they care for, the type of care provided or the frequency of care.
4. The definition of care includes providing practical or emotional support to another person.
5. The local authority must provide the appropriate links between the requirements in children’s and adults’ legislation to enable it to combine the assessment of a young carer with an assessment of the person/people cared for.
6. The assessment must take account of the wishes of the young carer to participate in education or training, work and engage in recreation.
7. The assessment must include a statement as to whether the local authority considers the young carer to be a “Child in Need” as defined under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
8. Where the person cared for by the young carer is a child, the written record of the assessment must state whether that child is considered to be a ‘Child in Need’.
9. The local authority is allowed to combine a young carer’s needs assessment with an assessment of the adult requiring care and support, if both parties agree. The assessment must involve the young carer, the parents and the adult requiring care and support.

10. The local authority will be required to provide a copy of the assessment to the parent and young carer, and also other parties on the request of the young carer or parent.
11. If an assessment has already occurred under alternative relevant legislation and circumstances have not changed, a new assessment is not required.
12. Existing rights for young carers from the Carers Recognition and Services Act 1995 and the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 will be inserted into Part 3 of the Children Act 1989.
13. Effective carer transition arrangements for a young carer approaching adulthood are required at the interface between CAYA and Adult Social Care.

### **3. Young Carers eligibility for an assessment and services**

All young carers qualifying under Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 should be proactively offered an Early Help Assessment. This is irrespective of whom the recipient of care is, the type or volume of care delivered. If an Adult Social Care assessment is also required, the assessment of the young carer and the adult requiring care and support should be at a minimum coordinated, or undertaken jointly if the cared for adult and young carer agree. A joint home visit in person by both workers at the same time should be actively promoted if Child in Need or safeguarding processes apply. Staff should note an adult's confidential information should not be disclosed to a young carer without their express permission e.g. a medical prognosis. Young carers' may also ask for certain confidences to be respected. Potential sensitivities and issues of confidentiality need to be considered throughout the process, from the planning of the assessment/s to the circulating of the written assessment/s record.

#### Responsibility When Family Members Live Across County Boundaries

- Assessment and support to an adult with care and support needs will be met by the local authority in which s/he lives
- The young carer assessment of need will be conducted by the local authority in which s/he lives
- Adult carer's needs will be assessed and met by the local authority where the adult with care and support needs lives, not the local authority where the adult carer lives.

#### 4. New Requirements for Adult Care to Support Young Carers

- I. When an adult with care and support needs is identified and there are children over five in the household, Adult Social Care should make inquiries to ascertain to what extent those young people are young carers. The presence of a visible adult carer should not lead staff to automatically assume that children and young people in the household are not also performing care tasks to varying degrees. This is especially pertinent when the person requiring care and support has fluctuating care and support needs in response to a fluctuating medical, substance misuse, or domestic abuse situation.

Section 96 of the Care Act 2014 states:

*‘But in a case where the local authority consider that the relationship between the person cared for and the person under 18 providing or intending to provide care is such that it would be appropriate for the person under 18 to be regarded as a young carer, that person is to be regarded as such’*

- II. Where a young carer is likely to become an adult carer after turning 18 years of age, Adult Social Care must assess if it considers this will be of ‘significant benefit’ to the individual. This is regardless of whether the young carer currently receives services. Significant benefit refers to the best time to plan the move into adult services.
- III. Where a request for an assessment is declined by Adult Social Care, an explanation in writing must be issued to the parent or carer if different.

#### 5. Services Carrying Out Assessments and Assuming Responsibility for Sourcing Relevant Resources

<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Responsibility for Identifying and Assessing</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Actions</b>
New identification of young carer	All professionals to take responsibility for identifying young carers e.g. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. social workers</li> <li>2. community care</li> </ol>	The identifying professional to actively and positively promote acceptance of a CAYA Early Help Assessment.  A record of	If provision of an Early Help Assessment is accepted refer into Starting Point stating a young carer has been identified

	<p>workers</p> <p>3. home care aides</p> <p>4. Call Derbyshire</p> <p>5. Starting Point</p>	<p>assessment refusals should be noted on the referral record</p>	
<p>Young carer /family accepts Early Help Assessment offer</p>	<p>CAYA – Integrated Early Help Services (including any relevant commissioned young carer services/roles)</p>	<p>Undertake Early Help Assessment of young carer and relevant siblings under age 18</p> <p>If appropriate signpost the family to welfare benefits advice</p> <p>Any request referred into Adult Social Care will be for a <b>coordinated</b> assessment across Adult Social Care and CAYA</p>	<p>Within the confidentiality bounds agreed to by the family and each relevant individual within it, share the young carer assessment with the young carer, the parent, and if different the adult requiring care and support</p>
<p>Needs by any family member under the age of 18 that meet the Section 17 threshold as defined in the Children Act 1989</p> <p>This could be the young carer themself/ves, or for example siblings supported by the young carer/s</p>	<p>CAYA - Social Care to lead</p>	<p>Section 17 assessment conducted</p> <p>Any Adult Social Care assessments should be undertaken <b>jointly</b> with CAYA</p>	<p>Follow Section 17 processes</p> <p>Assessment of adult needs is prioritised by Adult Social Care</p> <p>Prioritise sourcing relevant services across the needs of all family members</p>

			Record as 'Young Carer' in the relevant Fi field, alongside other relevant categories
Needs meeting the Section 47 (safeguarding) threshold as defined in the Children Act 1989 are identified for a family member under the age of 18 who is also a young carer  or/and  Section 47 threshold is met for a child cared for by a young carer.	CAYA - Social Care to lead	Section 47 processes applied.  Adult Social Care and CAYA to jointly assess if a relevant adult has needs for care and support.  Workers should adopt a <i>whole family approach</i>	CAYA Safeguarding Policy and Procedures implemented  Services prioritise provision of services to reduce unmet need  Record as a young carer on relevant Fi field, alongside other relevant categories
An adult carer for another adult with care and support needs is identified	Adult Social Care to lead	Adult Social Care to offer an adult 'Carers Assessment'  Adult Social Care to actively consider whether a young carer role is also active in the household. This role could include parenting siblings to support the adult carer	Carers' assessment conducted.  Provision of/signpost to relevant services including as relevant CAYA Starting Point for an Early Help Assessment
Adult safeguarding issues are identified during an Early Help Assessment of a	Identifying professional to refer into adult safeguarding processes	Adult safeguarding processes applied  Adult Social Care and CAYA <b>jointly</b>	Adult Social Care/CAYA prioritises relevant service provision to reduce unmet

young carer	Adult Social Care to lead	<p>assess family needs</p> <p>Workers should adopt a <i>whole family approach</i></p>	need
Transition of young carers at age 17	<p>If a young carer is identified at age 17 and the adult receiving their care and support is not open to Adult Social Care, that young carer should be referred to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derbyshire Carers Association</li> <li>• CAYA enhanced Careers Advice Service</li> <li>• A CAYA Early Help Assessment to be offered if there are younger siblings in the household</li> </ul>	<p>DCA will undertake a transitions assessment including referring into Adult Social Care if the identified young carers needs are greater than the raft of interventions available to it.</p> <p>Enhanced MAT Careers advice to support young carers access continuing education or/and employment</p> <p>Assess needs of younger siblings that may also assume young carer responsibilities.</p> <p>Ascertain if a referrals should be made to Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Transitions Assessment</p> <p>Raise aspirations for the future by supporting entry into the best continuing education or employment opportunities available in each individual young carers particular circumstances</p> <p>Local authority to provide relevant services</p>

Young carer is aged 17 and open in CAYA services	If the young carer is known to CAYA, a referral should be made to Adult Social Care for a young carer's transition assessment. Adult Social Care will determine if it is beneficial to offer the assessment at 17 years of age	The Adult Social Care assessment must consider whether the young carer is willing and able to continue to provide a level of care	CAYA to provide relevant services especially careers and further education guidance
An adult cared for by a young carer approaching 17 is an active Adult Social Care case and  the young carer is closed to CAYA services	When the adult is open to a worker or a team, that worker or team are the nominated worker to offer a carer's assessment.  Promote acceptance of a CAYA Early Help Assessment	The assessment must consider whether the young carer is willing and able to continue to provide a level of care  Undertake an Early Help Assessment and identify needs for any younger siblings	Provide services as directed by the Adult Social Care Assessment  Provide /signpost to relevant services especially careers and further education guidance

## 6. Case Closures

At case closure young carers and their families must be informed that the local authority maintains an open door to young carers and a re-assessment of need can be triggered by a change in: family member composition; care needs or demands, or family members identifying that the young carers need for support has changed.

## 7. Relevant Services, Resources and Contact Details

### CAYA Resources

- CAYA referral route - Starting Point – **Referral Route to be Confirmed**
- Action for Children –Derbyshire Young Carer Service (outsourced CAYA young carer service to 31 March 2016). Tel 01246 207752 or email at: <http://www.homecaredirect.co.uk/action-for-children-derbyshire-young-carers-service>
- Link to CAYA Early Help Services –  
[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/Early%20Help%20Offer%20Jun%202014\\_tcm44-234791.pdf](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/Early%20Help%20Offer%20Jun%202014_tcm44-234791.pdf)

### Adult Resources

- Link to Derby and Derbyshire CAYA Safeguarding Procedures  
<http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>
- Link to Adult Care Early Help Services-  
[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social\\_health/adult\\_care\\_and\\_wellbeing/default.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social_health/adult_care_and_wellbeing/default.asp)
- Adult Care Referral Route – Call Derbyshire – Tel 08 456 058 058
- Link to Derby and Derbyshire Adult Care Safeguarding Procedures -  
<http://www.derbyshirescb.org.uk/children/index.html>
- Derbyshire Carers Association (DCA) – outsourced adult carer services-  
**Telephone:** 01773 743355 <mailto:info@derbyshirecarers.co.uk>

## 8. Glossary

CAYA – Children and Younger Adults (department)