

## Step 6

# Tool 6: Working in partnership with young carers services

Working in partnership with a young carers service can greatly enhance school support for young carers and can often help facilitate the identification of young carers. There are over 350 young carers' services across the UK. Young carers' services work in a variety of ways and deliver different types of support to young carers. Carers Trust and The Children's Society websites enable users to find out details of your local young carers service:

- [www.carers.org/carers-services/find-your-local-service](http://www.carers.org/carers-services/find-your-local-service)
- <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/young-people/young-carers/local-service-finder>

STEP

1

STEP

2

STEP

3

STEP

4

STEP

5

TOOL 6

STEP

6

STEP

7

STEP

8

STEP

9

STEP

10

## What types of support do young carers' services provide to young carers?

Each young carers' service will vary in its provision. Usually they support children and young people between 5 and 18 through:

- **Clubs and activities and/or respite breaks.** Young carers get valuable time away from their caring role to socialise and engage with other young carers in a similar situation to them.
- **1:1 support.** Your local young carers' service may also provide emotional support through the use of support workers, mentors or counsellors. Young carers' support workers are catalysts for positive change in young carers' lives, and are someone that the young carer can depend on. Sometimes these are the only adults that a young carer will trust.
- **Whole family work.** Many young carers' services work with the whole family. Addressing the needs of the whole family, including through access to appropriate services, and benefits, can all reduce the caring responsibilities of a young carer. Many families do not receive holistic support from anywhere else.

## What support may a young carer service be able to provide to schools?

Schools should establish protocols with their local young carers' service to ensure effective information is shared between the service and the school. Consider using Pupil Premium to buy-in this support and expertise. This will:

- Make sure the school and service inform each other, with the appropriate consent, when they identify a young carer.
- Inform the types of support provided to the young carer.
- Enable effective monitoring of how the young carers' needs are being met.
- Depending on resources, young carers' services may also be able to offer support to schools in the local community. This may include:
  - Support to develop, implement and review the school's provision for young carers.
  - Training and awareness raising amongst school staff.
  - Delivery of assemblies on young carers.
  - Delivery of support with PSHE lessons.
  - Individual or group work with young carers.
  - Peer mentor training.
  - Lunchtime or after-school groups.

STEP  
1

STEP  
2

STEP  
3

STEP  
4

STEP  
5

**TOOL 6**  
STEP  
6

STEP  
7

STEP  
8

STEP  
9

STEP  
10

## Establishing links with your local young carers' service

When establishing links with a young carers' service, schools should:

- Have a clear understanding of the aims and scope of the service.
- Agree joint ways of working and perhaps set these out in a protocol or agreement (see **Step 6, Tool 7: Checklist for Effective Partnership Working between Schools and Young Carers' Services** and **Step 6 Tool 8: Exemplar working together agreement for use with young carers' services**).

Whilst services can often provide support to schools, and this support is invaluable, they cannot and do not replace a whole-school approach for young carers.

To meet the needs of young carers in your school, it is vital that all school staff are committed to delivering a positive whole-school ethos where young carers and their families are respected and valued by pupils, staff and the wider school community and feel safe and confident to access support.

STEP

1

STEP

2

STEP

3

STEP

4

STEP

5

TOOL 6

STEP

6

STEP

7

STEP

8

STEP

9

STEP

10