

Step 6

Tool 9: Supporting young carers to participate post-16

Transitions into adulthood are particularly complex and challenging for young carers. The difficulties they frequently experience as a result of their caring roles can have significant and long-term negative impacts on their engagement with education and employment and their overall physical and emotional wellbeing.

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What are the requirements on young carers to participate post-16?

Following the raising of the participation age, young people, including young carers, are required to continue to participate post-16. This does not mean young people must stay in school post-16 but are able to choose from:

- Full-time education (for example, at school or college).
- An apprenticeship or traineeship.
- Part-time education or training combined with employment or self-employment for 20 hours or more a week.

What are the requirements on schools to support carers to participate post-16?

Schools have a duty to secure access to independent careers guidance for all pupils, including young carers, in school years 9-11. This careers guidance must:

- Be presented in an impartial manner.
- Include information on the full range of post-16 education or training options, including apprenticeships.
- Promote the best interests of the pupils to whom it is given.

As part of this duty, it will be important for schools to ensure the careers guidance supplied to young carers takes into account their caring role.

How can schools enable effective transitions for young carers post-16?

When fulfilling its duty to provide independent careers advice, the school should ensure advice:

- Recognises pupil's caring responsibilities.
- Provides a balanced view of courses and subjects and encourages young carers to think broadly about their ambitions and aspirations.
- Supports them to consider all available options.
- Recognises any additional skills they have developed in their caring role.
- Encourages them to identify and record transferable skills they use in their caring role so they might use them to their advantage in the workplace.
- Includes information about the financial support that exists for young adult carers going to college and university at an early stage. This will enable young people to plan their futures without the uncertainty that currently exists.

The Young Carers' School Operational Lead should also establish links with schools, colleges, training providers and universities to plan and agree information sharing protocols and processes to support young carers through transition.

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