

Supporting Services for Young Carers 2016-19

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This paper notes the support needs of young carers in Argyll and Bute and responsibilities placed on the Local Authority to meet those needs outlined in statutory guidance and in the imminent Carers (Scotland) Bill. The paper recommends a funding package from within existing Children and Families Service budgets is provided to organisations across Argyll and Bute involved in providing services to young carers.
- 1.2 The definition of a young carer from the *Care 21* report is “a child or young person under 18 who has a significant role in looking after someone else who is experiencing illness or disability, which would normally be undertaken by an adult”.
- 1.3 In 2010 The Princess Royal Trust for Carers published a report *‘Mapping Of Services to Young Carers in Scotland’* which estimated there were 1,117 young carers in Argyll & Bute.
- 1.4 The anticipated Carers (Scotland) Bill will require Local authorities to provide a **Young Carer’s Statement** for any young carer requesting an assessment of need. This Young Carer’s Statement must include information about the support available to young carers in the responsible local authority’s area, and if the young carer’s identified needs meet the local eligibility criteria, the Statement must contain information about the support the responsible local authority provides or intends to provide to the young carer to meet those needs.
- 1.5 The Scottish Government *“Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-15 : Getting it Right for Young Carers”* acknowledged the vital role that support groups for young carers play in the lives of young people who have a caring role for their parents or siblings and placed the continued development of these sources of support at the centre of the strategy. Young Carers’ Support Groups have formed and operated with varying capacity involving local third sector groups across five

out of the seven localities in Argyll and Bute, with the exceptions being the islands of Islay and Bute. While some groups have sustained operation at a consistent level over a number of years, notably those in receipt of Local Authority funding, others have struggled to launch or to maintain a sustained capacity due to difficulties in obtaining stable funding.

1.6 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

a) Note the increased responsibility that the Carers (Scotland) Bill will place on Argyll and Bute Council to provide Young Carers' Statements detailing the support available locally for any young carer.

b) Acknowledge the lack of resilience in funding for support provided to young carers across Argyll by the range of third sector groups identified.

c) Approve £0.020m for Helensburgh and Oban to allow infrastructure within current carer services to remain in place while services access funding from the Health and Social Care Partnership or external charitable trusts

d) Note that Argyll & Bute Health and Social Care Partnership will work with Mid Argyll Kintyre and Islay, to access appropriate funding to re-establish services for young carers locally.

e) Note that Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership will work with Dunoon's young carer service to establish a plan to sustain the service once the 3 year funding from the Big Lottery ends.

Supporting Services for Young Carers 2016-19

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This paper notes the support needs of young carers in Argyll and Bute and responsibilities placed on the Local Authority to meet those needs outlined in statutory guidance and in the imminent Carers (Scotland) Bill.

2.2 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

a) Note the increased responsibility that the Carers (Scotland) Bill will place on Argyll and Bute Council to provide Young Carers' Statements detailing the support available locally for any young carer.

b) Acknowledge the lack of resilience in funding for support provided to young carers across Argyll by the range of third sector groups identified.

c) Approve £0.020m for Helensburgh and Oban to allow infrastructure within current carer services to remain in place while services access funding from the Health and Social Care Partnership or external charitable trusts.

d) Note Argyll & Bute Health and Social Care Partnership will work with Mid Argyll Kintyre and Islay, to access appropriate funding to re-establish services for young carers locally.

e) Note Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership will work with Dunoon's young carer service to establish a plan to sustain the service once the 3 year funding from the Big Lottery ends.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 The Scottish Government "*Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-15: Getting it Right for Young Carers*" and the imminent Carers (Scotland) Bill both accept the definition of young carer first outlined in the *Care 21* report: "a child or young person under 18 who has a significant role in looking after someone else who is experiencing illness or disability, which would normally be undertaken by an adult".

- 3.2 As described in the above *Young Carers Strategy* some studies have estimated there to be over 100,000 young carers in Scotland, which is 1 in 10 of the school age population. However, there are variations in the estimated number because different definitions of a 'young carer' exist and because universal services do not keep information on the numbers of young carers they are working with. Further, children and young people who provide care do not always see themselves as 'young carers.' The population Census in 2001 included a question to help identify the numbers of unpaid carers in Scotland, their ages and the impact their caring contribution made on their own health. This identified 16,701 young people in Scotland who were recorded as providing some unpaid care. However this figure is regarded as likely to significantly underestimate the actual numbers in part because it is adults rather than young people providing care who complete the Census returns. The more recent Census in 2011 records 166 young people in Argyll and Bute under the age of 16 providing between 1 and over 50 hours of care per week. In addition a further 348 between the ages of 16 and 24 are providing similar levels of care. However there is no evidence to suggest that this figure is any more accurate than in 2001.
- 3.3 The Education (Additional Support for Learning) Scotland Acts of 2004 and 2009 outline the responsibilities of the Local Authority to categories of children and young people defined as requiring additional support for learning. Statutory guidance includes young people with caring responsibilities within this group. Accordingly Argyll and Bute Education Authority record numbers of identified young carers on the national Education database Seemis. At present 112 young people are classified as "young carers" on Argyll and Bute Council's Seemis database. However again this figure is likely to be subject to the same difficulties in under recording identified above.
- 3.4 Although GPs are identified in the *Young Carers Strategy* as having a key role in identifying young people with additional caring responsibilities there is no national or local database of young carers, and within Argyll and Bute, NHS Highland has only the census details to map need of young carers.
- 3.5 In 2010 The Princess Royal Trust for Carers published a report '*Mapping Of Services to Young Carers in Scotland*' which estimated there were 1,117 young carers in Argyll & Bute. This study extrapolated estimated need against total population based on a number of small studies across Scotland which showed a figure per head of population of between 10 and 15%. This figure has some evidential consistency when considered alongside the numbers of young carers identified through Carers' organisations in some areas of Argyll and Bute, with 127 young people registered as receiving support through the Carers' Centre in Helensburgh alone.
- 3.6 Therefore accepting the recognised difficulties in identifying young people as "young carers" and the consensus view of all data gathering reports considering the numbers of young carers that actual data is likely to be a considerable under-recording, the Health and Social Care Partnership along with colleagues in Education and the third sector are working with an estimated number of between 600 and 1100 young carers resident in Argyll and Bute.

- 3.7 The anticipated Carers (Scotland) Bill will require local authorities to provide a **Young Carer's Statement** for any young carer requesting an assessment of need. This Young Carer's Statement must include information about the support available to young carers in the responsible local authority's area, and if the young carer's identified needs meet the local eligibility criteria the Statement must contain information about the support the responsible local authority provides or intends to provide to the young carer to meet those needs.
- 3.8 The Scottish Government "*Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-15 : Getting it Right for Young Carers*" acknowledged the vital role that support groups for young carers play in the lives of young people who have a caring role for their parents or siblings and placed the continued development of these sources of support at the centre of the strategy.
- 3.9 **CURRENT PROVISION**
Young Carers' Support Groups have formed and operated with varying capacity involving local third sector groups across five out of the seven localities in Argyll and Bute, with the exceptions being the islands of Islay and Bute. While some groups have operated at a consistent level over a number of years, notably those in receipt of Local Authority funding, others have struggled to launch or to maintain a sustained capacity due to difficulties in obtaining stable funding.
- 3.10 In three localities - Oban, Helensburgh and now Dunoon, Carers' Centres have been responsible for developing local provision. Support to children on Bute is provided from Dunoon.
- 3.11 Oban: Oban Young Carers offering primary and secondary after school clubs, one to one support, parenting support, holiday activities and respite has been supported by Oban Carers' Centre for ten years. Argyll and Bute Council Children and Families Service has historically provided grant funding to support this service. Continuation of statutory funding is required to sustain and allow Oban carers to lever additional funding from Health and Social Care Partnership or charitable organisations.
- 3.12 Helensburgh: The Young Carers Initiative was launched in 2012 with 2 full time members of staff. Once identified, they undertake a detailed carer's assessment and a tailored support package offered to suit their needs and circumstances. This includes: Short Breaks, Personal Development Programmes, Healthy Futures Programme, Homework Study Club, Volunteer mentoring, Group Work, Summer Programme, Workshops, Social Activities, Scottish Young Carers Festival, Educational trips and counselling. An additional part-time Support Worker was employed in April 2014 to deliver the Education, Training and Employment. This is primarily targeted at young adult carers in the 14-24 years age group and offers them assistance to explore options for further education, training or employment. The departure of the

Young Carers Development Co-ordinator to other employment during the year provided an opportunity for the Charity to review the staffing structure. This resulted in the post title being changed to Carer Services Team Leader and an additional part-time Young Carers post being added to the establishment. One of the aims of this change is to achieve greater integration of service delivery between adult and young carers staff. Unfortunately Helensburgh and Lomond Young Carers has very recently failed to gain an extension to their previous three years Big Lottery Funding and as a result are facing significant reduction in service provision. Helensburgh requires interim funding to allow the infrastructure to remain in place so it can apply for funding through Health and Social Care Partnership or external charitable sources.

- 3.13 Dunoon: Crossroads Carers' Centre has just been successful in obtaining a significant funding allocation from the Big Lottery which should see an expansion of available services to the level previously seen in Helensburgh. It will be crucial for this group to develop a strategy to sustain services beyond the three years.
- 3.14 In Mid-Argyll a service was previously provided by the Mid-Argyll Young People's Service with a third sector funded co-ordinator post and separate young carer support activities. However funding for this post was not sustained long term and young carers' support is now provided within mainstream young people's groups. This service has indicated that baseline funding from Argyll and Bute Council would enable match funding to be sought from third sector with a view to re-establishing dedicated young carer provision, access to this could be explored through the integrated care fund.
- 3.15 In Kintyre, the Kintyre Young Carers Service was founded as a multi-agency partnership in 2010. Argyll and Bute Council initially provided staffing hours and resources. However for the past two years the service has operated in partnership with Kintyre Youth Café (The Hub). Funding for the coordinator post from third sector sources was not sustained and again any services for young carers have been subsumed into the mainstream provision. This service has also indicated that funding would provide a platform for attracting additional funding and the re-establishment of dedicated service provision. No dedicated services for young carers currently exist on Islay.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Scottish Government "*Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-15: Getting it Right for Young Carers*" recognises the key role in supporting young carers fulfilled by dedicated Young Carers' support services. The Carers(Scotland) Bill will contain provision requiring local authorities to provide Young Carers' Statements on request by individuals identifying support services available locally. If young people requesting Young Carers' Statements also meet the eligibility criteria the local authority will also be required to provide services to meet the identified needs.

- 4.2 Current provision for young carers across Argyll is uneven and although some areas have successfully bid for significant lottery funding history has evidenced that without core statutory funding it has been difficult for any group to sustain a standard of service provision.
- 4.3 This paper outlines proposals that recognises the fragility of young carer services in Argyll and Bute. It proposes that the Children and Families Service work with partners within the Health and Social Care Partnership to identify resources from within locality based funding streams which will allow Young Carers Groups to bid for similar funding for years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: Proposal anticipates imminent responsibility within Carers (Scotland) Bill to provide Young Carers' Statement and supports Scottish Government *Young Carers Strategy* aim of developing dedicated young carers services.
- 5.2 Financial: Anticipated that costs are met from redirecting funding from within existing budgets for 16/17 and future costs should be accessed through Health & Social Care Partnership.
- 2016/17
 Helensburgh & Lomond: £0.020m
 Oban: £0.020m
 MAKI and Bute & Cowal to access Integrated Care Fund
- 5.3 Legal: Proposals support the Council's compliance with legal requirements expected to be implemented by Carers (Scotland) Bill for local authorities to provide Young Carers' Statements outlining services to support local needs of young carers.
- 5.4 HR: None
- 5.5 Equalities: Young Carers are an identified group requiring additional support under Education (Additional Support Needs) (Scotland) Acts 2004 and 2009. Service provision is currently dependent on postcode. Proposals will support services across Argyll and Bute equitably
- 5.6 Risk: Council unable to meet statutory requirements to provide services for young carers.
- 5.7 Customer Service: Proposals increase sustainability of services for young carers across Argyll and Bute for the next three years and provide opportunity for supported groups to seek

Cleland Sneddon
Executive Director of Community Services

Policy Lead: Councillor Maurice Corry

15 December 2015

For further information contact:

Brian Reid, Locality Manager (MAKI) Tel 01586 559072
brian.reid@argyll-bute.gov.uk