



Crossroads Caring for Carers (Cowal & Bute) SCIO

Project: Crossroads Young Carers Cowal & Bute

July 2016

Mags Todd – Crossroads Young Carers Cowal & Bute Project Coordinator

Project Report for Area Community Planning Group 9th August 2016

Having identified a need through consultation & feasibility study Crossroads Caring for Carers Cowal & Bute SCIO were successful in an application to the BIG Lottery through the National Lottery for 5 years funding for Young Carers Project.

The Young Carers project aims to support young carers aged 5 to 24 years with 1:1 sessions, advocacy, group sessions, activities, outing, residentials and linking young carers in with partner agencies & resources.

Staff structure

Young Carers Coordinator - Mags Todd

Young Carers Support Worker – Claire Florence

Young Carers Support Worker – Mo Newlands

Administration & Finance Support – Agnieszka Burnett

Organisational:

- Continue to source premises for Crossroads Young Carers Cowal & Bute
- Young Carers documentation developed : referral, registration, consent. Referral form circulated to partners across Cowal & Bute
- Young Carers 'casefile' developed includes: Registration Form, consent Form, Caring roles undertaken, Young Carers areas of interest (activities, 1:1, training for example), evaluation & monitoring in line with current funding, opportunities to record Young Carers achievements & activities etc undertaken.
- Staff & volunteer documentation developed & training undertaken (Child Protection, Minibus Assessment, Emergency Mental Health for Young People) or identified (First Aid, Food Hygiene)
- Leaflet information developed and draft of leaflet produced, awaiting approval of logo following logo competition in Cowal & Bute.
- Developed processes to record monitoring & evaluation, including activities, groups, residential etc for funders
- Development of Facebook page
- Met with all Headteachers Cowal & Bute to raise awareness of the Young Carers project
- Delivered Discussion Group inputs into all Bute schools with the exception of Rothesay Academy



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- Delivered Discussion Group inputs into 4 Primary settings in Cowal, further dates arranged for new school term August & September
- Evaluation of Discussion Group inputs
- Set up of Young Carers Focus Groups (Primary, Secondary & Young adult)
- Exploring participants for Young Carers Sub Group, a sub group under Crossroads Caring for Carers Cowal & Bute SCIO Board of Trustees
- Development of Risk Assessments

Premises:

- Dunoon – Several properties have been investigated/viewed & include: Struan Lodge, Dochas Building, Dunoon School Hostel, Community Centre (Edward Street), Youth Centre, Baptist Church, Dolphin Hall & a number of privately owned/rented premises.
- Some premises available for use by Young Carers for group sessions. We will continue to explore this and hope to have age appropriate groups starting in the new school term.
- Bute – Sourced free and fee paying premises to deliver after school sessions. Once numbers have increased age appropriate groups will be facilitated.

Recruitment:

- Young Peoples Young Carers Interview Panel supported in recruitment of Young Carers Support Workers

Volunteer recruitment to be undertaken 2016-2017

- Volunteer recruitment processes & induction to be developed
- Volunteer recruitment to be advertised

Partner Organisations:

- Attendance at Dunoon Primary Open Day event
- Attendance at Dunoon Grammar School Careers event
- Inputs completed with primary & secondary schools
- Inputs to Argyll College, Cowal & Bute
- Input to Argyll & Bute Adult Services Team
- Input to Argyll & Bute Children & Family Social Work (Cowal) completed, date to be confirmed for Bute.
- Met with colleagues across Cowal & Bute to share information : Fyne Homes, HELP Ltd, TSI, Argyll Presbytery, Addactions, ACHA, Vital Spark, Money Advice Scotland, Department for Work & Pensions, Skills Development Scotland,



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CarrGomm, Enable, The Duke of Edinburgh Award, Homestart majik, CLASP Cornerstone, Police Scotland, Enable

- Provided information to schools for inclusion in school newsletters
- Advised schools Young Carers project team available to attend Parents Evenings & other School events
- Established links with Louise Morgan, Young Carers Alliance & Karen Martin, Mental Health
- Shared information with CLD Bute & CLD Dunoon, plan to work in partnership in delivery of activities where Young Carers may be or have been identified.
- Met with colleagues: North Argyll Young Carers & Helensburgh & Lomond Young Carers; exploring opportunities to work together & share practice.
- Met with Young Carers of North Argyll Young Carers to learn what is important to them through their local project and what Young Carers might want from Crossroads Young Carers Cowal & Bute.
- Attended Cowal Police Sports Event

Planned Partner Organisation Inputs:

- Health visitors
- School Nurses
- GPs/Surgeries

Children & Young People Inputs:

- Attended EXP Youth Group, raising awareness of Young Carers, agreed Young Carers to attend on regular basis –once per month. Undertook input with young people attending the group & subsequent discussion.
- Undertaken class group discussion inputs with the following schools, the aim being to raise awareness rather than for young carers to identify themselves: Rothesay Primary (270), Strachur Primary (46), Strone Primary (20), North Bute Primary (45), St Andrews Primary, Lochgoilhead Primary
- Followed each discussion input in the following week with drop in session at the same schools.
- Regularly undertaking fortnightly drop in sessions at: Rothesay Academy & Rothesay Primary. In addition a fortnightly Focus Group also runs at Rothesay Academy.
- School discussion groups enable children/young people to explore the possibility of whether they have caring responsibilities with school staff or young carers staff outside of discussion group inputs. For example: 5 children from one school approached young carer project staff during a follow up session self identifying as young carers, this information could then be passed back to the school for further discussions with children & families.
- Argyll College Drop in (Bute)



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- Tighnabruiaich Youth Club

Children & Young People Inputs to be undertaken:

- Argyll College Drop ins for Bute & Cowal scheduled for September.
- Dunoon Primary, Sandbank Primary, Rothesay Academy, Dunoon Grammar scheduled for August & September
- After school & holiday club providers during school holidays

We hope to involve young carers in the continued development of the Young Carers project, ensuring they are listened too and have a say about a project that has been funded in response to their needs.

Referrals:

- Referrals discussed: Addactions, CLD, Children & Families Social Work (Cowal & Bute), Rothesay Academy, Rothesay Primary, self referrals, Homestart, Lochgoilhead Primary, Strachur Primary, Strone Primary,
- Referrals received to date: 10
- Homevisits undertaken: 6
- Consents & Registration: 10

Note: several young carers and/or their families are in touch with the project which to date have not moved to registration. This can be a long process for some families for a variety of reasons.

Activities/Residential:

- Bowling & Chinese Buffet King (Braehead) 4th June 2016 – attended by 3 young carers
- Scottish Young Carers Festival August
- Summer holiday activity programme over 9 days
- Collated partner organisations Summer Holiday Activities to promote and support Young Carers in attending further activities & for Young Carers team to support, aids in raising awareness of young carers & build relationships with children & young people and the Young Carers project and reduces duplication.
- Discussions of young carers residential with Outdoor Activity Centre for August/September

Advertising & Press Releases:

- Crossroads Young Carers Cowal & Bute project start press release in Dunoon Observer & The Buteman.
- Dunoon Observer & The Buteman advertised the Crossroads Young Carers Cowal



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& Bute logo competition

- The Buteman ran an article on Crossroads Young Carers Cowal & Bute both in the paper & online.
- Draft of leaflet produced
- Pens with contact details ordered & handed out at events
- Facebook page regularly updated with information
- Information to be included in schools Newsletters regarding Young Carers has been submitted to schools. All schools have been positive in using this information.
- Information has been provided to third sector organisations who distribute Newsletters to their clients.
- Bute Radio interview
- Registered Crossroads Young Carers Cowal & Bute on Babble (Young Carers online chat forum)
- Website & costs are being investigated

Activity providers:

- Met with the following to discuss options/costs for activities young carers: Benmore Outdoor Centre, Ardroy Outdoor Centre, Wilderways, Voyager,

Resources:

- Purchase of laptops for Young Carers staff
- Developed materials for groupwork with young people to facilitate their learning and increase their awareness of issues for young carers and to help them identify themselves or possibly others as young carers
- Purchase of car seats for children as legally required
- Purchase of a craft materials, outdoor & indoor games

Evaluation & Monitoring:

- Recording of all work undertaken through monthly reports
- Recording of activities completed
- Case files contain a record of registration, consents, anticipated outcomes, activities attended, achievements, evidence.
- Developed evaluation form for schools to inform on discussion groups/inputs
- Recording of quotes from discussion groups & inputs
- BIG Lottery 6 month Evaluation & monitoring report due September 2016.
- Outcomes & Targets completed for The Robertson Trust & 2016 funding drawn down.



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Additional Information/Points of interest:

- 1 young person has advised that although s/he still has caring responsibility will be attending University and therefore feels does not want further support at this time. Young Carer has been informed project able to offer support as & when/if required.
- 1 male child aged 10 years (approx), asked during discussion group input 'where does the money come from', developed into interesting discussion about the BIG Lottery, winnings & charities.
- 1 male child aged 9/10 years (approx), asked who would care for the cared for person if the young carer was on an activity
- 1 child asked if the young carer looks after the adult, is the adult able to look after the child
- 1 Headteacher advised 'if you had not been into school, we may not have known about these children (young carers)'
- Child 'what age do you need to be to be a young carer?'
- Several primary aged children talked of helping family members with medication
- Young person identified she would not be able to approach a member of school staff about her caring role