

**Young Carer Protocol**

**The official definition of a Young Carer is:**

*'…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).' Children and Families Act 2014 Section 96*.

This definition does not impede any child also being assessed as a Child in Need under S.17 Children Act 1989.

**Service Delivery:**

Following a decision in May 2019, Somerset County Council retains its requirement to assess any child or young person upon who a Young Carer assessment is requested.

Guidance can be found in the Young Carers Assessment Guidance Notes May 2019.

Assessment can be completed via the adult framework, Child and Family Assessment and / or Early Help Assessment. The assessment should identify whether a child or young person is a young carer, the nature and impact of the caring role and what support may be required.

**The Young Carer Assessment must always be considered in line with safeguarding processes and significant risk escalated through the appropriate agency channels.**

Dependent upon the level of need assessed under the Effective Support for Children and Families in Somerset guidance, support may be offered in a number of ways; this could include Level 4 social work service, Level 3 prevention service support (currently Team 8 / getset / CWD early help service) or support through the Lead Practitioner approach at Level 2 (for example a school-based Parent and Family Support Advisor).

Young Carer support and activity groups run on a regular basis in Somerset and are provided by partners within the wider Somerset Partnership and by volunteers and sessional workers alongside.

Any referral for Young Carers services post assessment should be made via the Early Help Assessment process, marking the Young Carers drop down box, and forwarded to: sdinputters@somerset.gov.uk