

**YOUNG CARER ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE NOTES**

**FRAMEWORK**

**Assessments may be completed by any professional in contact with a child or young person who may have caring responsibilities.**

**The adult framework is compliant with Young Carer legislation.**

**The Child and Family Assessment and Early Help Assessment include specific questions in relation to the identification of potential Young Carers.**

**CHILD AND FAMILY ASSESSMENT / EARLY HELP ASSESSMENT USER GUIDANCE**

**Trigger questions are now included in the C and F / EHA which (if answered in the affirmative) open a number of qualitative and quantitative questions**

**TRIGGER QUESTION**

***Do you consider any of the children/young people young carers? Are they caring for someone in the family with a long-term illness or disability?***

This is a simple YES / NO question which, if answered in the affirmative, requires further assessment of the nature and types of care provided, needs and support.

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.

In considering whether the child / young person has a carer role, think about:

* Person for who the caring role relates
* Relationship – e.g. mum, sibling, grandparent etc

Are there other people who should be consulted in considering whether a child has a YC role?

* The young carer
* The young carer's parent(s)
* Any other person who the child or young person or a parent of the child or young person requests the authority to involve

**If the answer to the trigger question is YES, move on to the three screening questions.**

**SUPPLEMENTARY / SCREENING QUESTIONS**

1. ***What caring are they doing?***

A young carer may care for family members who are disabled or chronically ill, or for adults who are misusing alcohol or drugs. Care may be physical, practical or emotional in nature, and can include financial management above the child or young person’s level of maturity.

The assessment must consider what other care is available for the care recipient and from who? E.g. an agency, other family or friends.

If another under 18-year-old child in the home is a carer, their support needs may also require assessment.

The assessment must consider the nature and frequency of care provided (the care package) and whether this care can be maximised from other (not young carer) resources.

Types of care to consider:

* Cleaning / Hoovering / Dusting
* Washing / Drying Up / Tidying Kitchen
* Cooking / Preparing food
* Washing / Drying clothes / Ironing
* Shopping for Food / Household items
* Gardening / Outdoor work
* Managing money / bills etc.
* Getting up in the night to help (broken sleep)
* Help with washing and bathing and dressing
* Helping with management of medication
* Organising things e.g. appointments
* Cheering up / Calming down – emotional support
* Making sure they are safe when out e.g. road safety
* Helping them with lifting i.e. person, equipment etc.
* Helping to care for a sibling
* Help with walking or moving around the house
* Pushing wheelchair / buggy
* Caring for Pets
* Interpreting / sign language

The assessment should consider how any lack of care by the child / young person would impact upon:

* The person being cared for
* The wider family’s ability to maintain the wellbeing of that person
1. ***What are the impacts on the child/young person?***

Assess whether any of the tasks provided by the young carer can be considered inappropriate or excessive based upon the age, sex, ability, wishes and feelings of the young carer (including impact on education, training or employment).

The assessment should identify why tasks undertaken could be considered inappropriate or excessive for that individual child / young person – this could include:

* Being overly physically strenuous
* Being inappropriately personal
* Providing emotional support
* Administering medication or supervising safety regimes
* Responsibility for budgets and financial management
* Impact on own wellbeing including emotional or developmental impacts
1. ***What support do they need?***

Each child / young person with carer responsibilities will have their own, individualised support needs which reflect the individual impact upon the young carer. Areas to be considered will include:

* Health, Development and Wellbeing
* Relationships including personal and family
* Education, training and employment
* Leisure and activity
* Ambition and goals

Having assessed the support needs, the assessment should lead to an action plan of what needs to happen next and what are the outcomes the young person wishes to achieve.

This plan should include the actions of those people present at the assessment but also from those already involved with the family and those to be involved going forwards and can be considered as a matrix:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Goals and Aims** | **What actions are required?** | **Who will be doing this?** | **By when?** |
|  |  |  |  |

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

Specifically, the assessor must consider the *Effective Support for Children and Families in Somerset* guidance document. In particular, the assessor must consider whether the Young Carer Assessment suggests that the child / young person should be considered a Child in Need under S17 of the CA 1989 or require a service at Level 3 or a lead practitioner approach at level 2.

Once a C and F assessment (plus relevant EHA section) OR an EHA is completed in which a young carer is identified, the Young Carer box (drop down) should be selected and the forms forwarded to: sdinputters@somerset.gov.uk