

YOUNG CARERS THRESHOLD DOCUMENT:

Definition of a Young Carer:

Young carers are defined as children under 18 with caring responsibilities. Their rights to be assessed come mostly from the Children's Act 1989 and the Children and Families Act 2014. As part of the whole family approach, if there is a person within the home who requires a level of support, the local council has a duty to consider whether there are any children involved in providing that care, and if so, what the impact is on that child.

Person who requires care from the child/young person, may be a parent or carer, sibling or anyone else living within the same home.

Conditions in which an adult may need support from a child include but are not exclusive to:

- Addiction
- Mental health concerns/illness
- Physical disability

And where these conditions impact daily life.

Where the 'cared for' is a sibling conditions may include but not exclusive to:

- Mental health concerns/illness
- Physical Disability
- Additional need

And where these conditions are having an impact on the how the family manages day to day life. This may mean that a sibling is missing out on opportunities due to the conditions the 'cared for' is experiencing.

Caring constitutes as:

- Physical activity within the home (e.g cleaning, cooking, shopping) which due to the condition the 'cared for' is unable to complete. This does not include 'age appropriate' household chores.
- Personal care – providing the 'cared for' with assistance with bathing, dressing etc
- Emotional support – due to the 'cared for' condition emotional support to an adult in the home is given by the young carer.

The local council have a duty to assess, and the assessment must involve the child with caring responsibilities, their parents and any other person the young carer requests in the assessment process.

The Childrens Act 1989 states that a Local Authority in England **must assess** whether a young carer within their area has needs for support and, if so what those needs are.

The criteria for assessment is that:

- a) It appears to the LA that the young carer may have needs for support, or
- b) The LA receive a request from the young carer or the parent/carer of the young carer
- c) This does not include anyone who has already been assessed for a caring role for the same person unless things have changed

The young carers assessment must include an assessment of whether it is appropriate for the young carer to provide, or continue to provide, care for the person in question, in the light of the young carers need for support, and other needs and wishes.

Key points to be included in the assessment:

- the extent to which the young carer is participating in or wishes to participate in education, training or recreation, and
- the extent to which the young carer works or wishes to work
- The views of the young carer,
- The views of the young carer's parents
- The views of any person who the young carer or a parent of the young carer requests the authority to involve.
- If there a need for on going support around the caring role? Is this need being supported via other agencies? If so ensure to detail this in the assessment.

Who completes the assessment:

If a FKW or SW are completing a Support or single assessment or supporting a family under CIN/SUP and recognise there is a caring role, they are to complete the Assessment Word document, attach this to the Young Carers Episode on LL and send to CTW.

If a request from parent/carer, Young Person or external professional is received by the IFD then this will be reviewed and added to LL. If deemed necessary for an assessment IFD worker will assign the assessment to the correct team. If open to a SW or FKW it will be allocated to the allocated worker and if not known to Social Care, then this will be allocated to the Young Carers Assessment Team.