

Health and Care Public (HCP) Forum (Sheffield) meeting Tuesday 10th May 2022: Summary of the key points and updates

- The HCP Forum (Sheffield) held a meeting focussed on young carers and were joined by two speakers
 1. Lee Teasdale Smith, Commissioning Officer for unpaid carers from Sheffield City Council
 2. Sara Gowen, Chief Executive, Sheffield Young Carers.

Lee's presentation

- Lee presented the above presentation providing an overview of the current legislation on Young Carers. The presentation provided definitions of young carers, adult carers & parent carers the presented some facts on young carers:
 - 2011 Census statistics revealed there are 166,363 young carers in England, compared to around 139,000 in 2001. This is likely to be an under-representation of the true picture as many remain under the radar of professionals
 - There are between 7,000-10,000 young carers in Sheffield.
 - Young carers have significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, the equivalent to nine grades lower overall than their peers e.g., the difference between nine Bs and nine Cs
- Lee also presented some slides on what good looked like in the treatment of young carers and what the legislation (Children's & Families Act, 2014; Care Act 2014) says about how young carers should be treated.
- The final slide presented an overview of what Sheffield City Council has done to support young carers:
 - Created a young carers register
 - Created a process in Adult Social Care to identify young carers
 - Worked collaboratively with Multi-Agency Support Teams, Adult Social Care, Attendance & Inclusion, Sheffield Young Carers to improve things further for young carers in Sheffield.
- Forum members views included:
- Forum members questions are shown in the black text
- Points from the Speaker are shown in the blue text
 - Is the young carers register available to all health agencies to view and refer to?
 - The young carers register is, in theory, available to any health service but the current focus is on embedding it in schools. Schools are a key organisation for identifying young carers but any organisation or service can refer in and a flag is then added to the existing database of school-age children in Sheffield. Primary care is the next focus.

- How many young carers are actually registered in Sheffield? Are grants linked to the registered numbers, or to the estimated number from the census data?
- There are around 160-170 young carers currently registered in Sheffield, however the register has only been running for approx. a year. We are looking at ways to proactively identify young carers rather than relying on them self-reporting. Sheffield Young Carers work with approx. 200 young carers a year, and most of the registered young carers have been referred by Sheffield Young Carers. Grants are linked to the estimated number of young carers, not the number on the young carers register.

Sara's presentation

- Sara presented the above presentation on the work of Sheffield Young Carers to support young carers that included a series of audio files of young carers' who they are supporting and their asks of service providers.
- Forum members views included:
 - It is positive to see more awareness and support for young carers, but it would be good if more support could be given to the families so that children don't have to become carers in the first place.
- Forum member questions are shown in the black text
- Speaker's responses are shown in the blue text
 - Young carers are still quite 'invisible' and we need a mind shift about how their skills and talents are viewed. How can we make changes to ensure that future educational establishments and employers are accounting for their unique experiences rather than just focussing on their school results?
 - Sheffield Children's University (CU) is a programme which allows children to take part in extra-curricular activities and gain credits towards a 'learning passport'. SYC have worked with the CU to encourage them to recognise the achievements of young carers and allow them to gain awards and certificates that they otherwise would not have been able to.

Collective question for the HCP

After the presentations and questions, the forum agreed for the following question to be raised to the HCP "What can be done to address the lack of consistency in how young carers are identified across the health and care system in Sheffield?"

Future meetings of the H&CP Forum Sheffield can be viewed [here](#).