



Young Carers in Schools e-Bulletin

Dear Young Carers Lead

Welcome back to another Bristol & South Glos Young Carers in Schools e-Bulletin.

Whilst we find ourselves in the third national lock-down, I continue to be impressed by the level of commitment given to young carers, with so many schools ensuring young carers are offered a place as part of the vulnerable pupils group and for those who cannot be in schools, giving regular check-ins and even online groups, it makes such a difference.

New Schools

13 new schools have joined YCiS since the last bulletin, taking the number of YCiS schools across the region to 82. Participating schools can be viewed [here](#).

Young Carers in Schools Awards

Well done to [Knowle DGE](#) who have achieved their Bronze Award creating support within the school to identify and support young carers, including young carer leads, accessible information for pupils, staff and families and a young carers peer support group. This is a fantastic achievement on their first anniversary of being in the programme.

[Barley Close Primary School](#) has been awarded the Young Carers in School Silver Award, a huge congratulations to Alison and her team for this amazing accomplishment. This is also a first for Bristol and South Gloucestershire we are very proud.

The Silver Award asks schools to implement multi-agency support to ensure young carers have access to appropriate support both within school and out of school. Schools are asked to demonstrate evidence of assemblies, staff training, partnership working and that attendance and attainment of young carers is monitored.

For more information and to find out how to apply for an Award click [here](#)

Young Carers Service Update

In November we welcomed Joss Tagg, as the new Young Carers Service Manager, having worked for several voluntary sector and young person focussed organisations including Brook and Voscur Joss brings a wealth of experience and we are delighted to have her on board.

We are continuing to offer support to young carers in Bristol & South Glos remotely. Read our full statement [here](#).

Thank you for your referrals, we continue to get a constant flow. The challenge working under COVID-19 is undertaking assessments online. We are looking for your support where young carers are attending schools and there is a difficulty in undertaking the assessment following a referral. When needed we will ask schools to support young carers to engage in a zoom assessment with one of our key workers. This helps to get a support plan in place sooner.

Young Carers Voice

The local Young Carers Voice group have raised a number of concerns including increased stress and mental health issues as a result of the pandemic and being educated at home. Due to living with people who are vulnerable to COVID many are having to stay at home, where they may experience additional issues to undertake their education due to pressures of their caring role. Young Carers Voice want to make sure schools are aware of the added complications they face and would like schools to check in with them more regularly at home to see if they need support. They are also concerned that there is not a plan for the taking of exams and this uncertainty raises anxiety levels.

Young Carers Voice have started to plan their actions for 2021, more news to follow at the Network meeting!



This year's theme is: **Protect Young Carers' Futures**. The day will focus on Young Carers futures, highlighting the incredible skills they have developed through being a Carer.

Young Carers are asking for action and for more to be done to make sure their skills count.

The Carers Trust have produced some great [YCAD resources](#) which you can use to support the day including

[Skills cards](#) young carers can use to tell people about the skills they have gained as a carer

[Skills journal](#), a useful tool that young carers can use to identify skills and use in their future to apply for courses, volunteering and jobs.

[Campaign pack](#) ideas to raise awareness about the issues important to young carers

[Poster](#) to promote Young Carers Action Day.

Young Carers Service : Young Carers Action Day Plans

As a service we are excited to be collaborating with [Creative Youth Network](#) and [Young Carers Development Trust](#) to develop local resources to support the day, including

Inspirational film's featuring Young Adult Carers and ex-service users

Online workshops to help young carers identify their skills

Primary focussed resources

We will be sharing these resources in February and asking schools to take action for young carers and share with us your plans for Young Carers Action Day.

Young Carers in Schools Network Meeting

The next YCiS young carers leads meeting is **Wednesday 24th February 1.30-3pm**. There will be a focus on Young Carers Action Day, Virtual young carers support groups and an opportunity to meet Joss, our new service manager.

For zoom joining details, register your attendance through Eventbrite [here](#).

Information & Resources

Coronavirus Webinars

Young Carers Development Trust in partnership with Carers support centre are delivering weekly webinars for Young Adult Carers aged 14 – 25 and professionals who work with them during lockdown, to register for the live Webinars or view the recordings click [here](#)

Employability Workshops

Over half term Carers Trust are delivering two workshops (Building Confidence and Budgeting) and 1:1 support for young and young adult carers aged 15-25 - taking place on 15 and 17 Feb. Contact dfalconer@carers.org for more information and to sign up

Carers Media Coverage

BBC news highlights the impact and isolation of young carers experienced during the pandemic [here](#)

Hidden Worlds: The life of young carers during the pandemic can be read [here](#)

The Young Carers in Schools Step by Step Guide Offers

[Step 9: Identifying, Assessing and Supporting Young Carers and their Families](#)

Staff CPD and Assemblies can be delivered virtually, please request these by emailing me vickih@carerssupportcentre.org.uk

I look forward to seeing you at the February network. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me for support with the [Young Carers in Schools Programme](#) and Award or anything mentioned in this bulletin.

Best

wishes,

Vicki

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Young Carers in Schools Development Worker

