

	<p align="center">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p align="center">CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">15 June 2015</p>
<p>How schools help young people to identify their caring roles and get appropriate help and support</p>	
<p>Report of the Director of Children's Services</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Review & Comment</p> <p>Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the work that takes place to support young carers in the borough. It considers the role of schools and particularly focuses on the work of the specialist provider Spurgeons, as well as how local services support this.

- 1.1 Spurgeons were commissioned in line with the borough's vision to help promote the needs of young carers across various universal services which may be accessed by young carers. They were also commissioned to assist in the early identification of young carers so that the needs resulting from their caring responsibilities could be addressed early to prevent the negative social and health impact that could arise from the young carers undertaking inappropriate caring duties.
- 1.2 Part of the strategy to ensure that young carers in Hammersmith and Fulham were better supported was for Spurgeons to work with schools to help them develop a system for identifying young carers and develop processes to access other support and to address potential barriers to learning and achievement which might result from their caring role.

1.3 Spurgeons have recently taken a number of positive steps to develop the relationships that they have with schools in Hammersmith and Fulham although there is more that can be done to develop this further.

2 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 Unpaid carers provide a significant amount of support for adults with social care needs. Providing practical support for such carers to continue in their caring role avoids significant costs which would otherwise fall on health and social care services (Carers UK, 2011).

2.2 The 2011 Census suggested there were 267 young people aged 0-15 providing unpaid care in Hammersmith & Fulham. This equates to just under 1% of the 0-15 population. Of the 267 children who could be deemed as young carers, the majority (75%) provided 1 to 19 hours of unpaid care a week, although 27 children provided 50 or more hours a week. It should be borne in mind that the census returns would have been completed by adults (i.e. those who in some cases were receiving the care offered) and so these may be underestimates. It is expected that there will be particularly low levels of reporting on children caring for parents who have mental health issues or who misuse substances.

2.3 Children aged up to 15 were therefore providing around 2% of all unpaid care in the borough. 1009 young people and young adults were also providing such care, some of whom would have been aged 16 to 18.

LC3304EW Provision of unpaid care by age¹ in Hammersmith & Fulham

	Total population	Number providing no unpaid care	Number providing unpaid care	Number providing 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	Number providing 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	Number providing 50 or more hours unpaid care a week
Age 0 to 15	29,630	29,363	267	201	39	27
Age 16 to 24	23,645	22,636	1,009	726	170	113
Age 50 to 64	22,511	18,928	3,583	2,339	510	734
Age 65 and over	16,413	14,667	1,746	967	218	561
All categories	182,493	170,159	12,334	7,936	1,867	2,531

2.4 Research by the Carers Trust and the Children's Society² found that young carers have significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, the

¹ Office for National Statistics 2011

² Hidden from View: The experiences of young carers in England, Children's Society 2013

equivalent to nine grades lower overall than their peers. They are also more likely than the national average to be not in education, employment or training (NEET) between the ages of 16 and 19. Young carers' families' average annual income was found to be £5000 less than for families who do not have a young carer and despite general awareness of the existence of this cohort of children and their particular needs and circumstances, young carers do not appear more likely to receive interventions from support agencies.

- 2.5** Spurgeons, are a national children's charity, which has been supporting young carers across England for over 10 years. They were commissioned to deliver support services for young carers in Hammersmith & Fulham, 1st September 2013 for a period of two years.
- 2.6** The young carers service was commissioned to provide services for young people up to 19 years of age. There are a number of service objectives and outcomes which Spurgeons are required to achieve for their young carers. These objectives are highlighted in appendix 1. Young Carer services are currently been re-designed and will be re-commissioned for April 2016.
- 2.7** Some of the services which Spurgeons deliver in Hammersmith and Fulham achieve their outcomes for carers include the following:
- Weekly term-time activity groups;
 - Holiday activity group sessions;
 - One to one support, advice and guidance, to include home visits where needed;
 - A programme of trips and activities during the school holiday periods;
 - A website for local young carers and their families to access support information;
 - Specialist training workshops on a variety of health, wellbeing and caring subjects;
 - Awareness raising workshops where young carers are provided with information, advice and guidance to help young carers make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities and the future;
 - Support and guidance for young carers in preparing for life changes; and
 - Counselling sessions

3 SPURGEONS WORK AND LINKS WITH SCHOOLS

- 3.1** Spurgeons have recently developed a policy which sets out the outcomes which they wish to achieve for young carers as a result of their work with schools in the borough. Some of these outcomes include:
- The schools understand the issues faced by young carers, what to look and listen for and how to respond
 - Young carers know how to access support

- Young carers are respected
- Transition support is in place for young carers
- The school is reducing barriers to education and learning

3.2 Spurgeons are looking to the Young Carers Exemplar Schools (YCES) approach which seeks to raise awareness of young carers needs in schools. The main purpose of the YCES is to provide schools with the relevant information and resources needed to identify hidden and visible carers and signpost them to relevant support pathways in either universal or targeted services. Spurgeons are currently piloting the YCES model at 2 schools in Westminster which will eventually lead to them being awarded the YCES status (a local recognition award for good practice). After the pilot Spurgeons hope to roll out the YCES model to schools across all three boroughs.

3.3 A YCES Reference Group has been developed, whose responsibility it will be to implement good practice standards highlighted by the Children's Society within the schools. Spurgeons are currently developing the YCES reference group terms of reference.

4 CURRENT WORK WITH SCHOOLS IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

4.1 Spurgeons have recently relaunched their communication strategy with all of the local schools updating them of their service offer, referral pathways and offering to deliver awareness raising sessions. However, so far Spurgeons have only received an offer from one school for a presentation, Sacred Heart's School. Spurgeons will work with the Council to develop pathways for creating opportunities to engage with all the schools in the borough regarding their service offer between now and the end of their contract.

4.2 Although Spurgeons offer activities and respite for young carers they also offer key work support where needs are more complex. An example of such support offered is one to one meetings which Spurgeons have planned at a Hammersmith and Fulham school with two siblings who have been identified as young carers. The meetings will occur once a meeting with the parent and the Head Teacher has taken place. The purpose of the meeting is to help the school provide the support that the siblings require to allow them to undertake their caring duties without it impacting on their attendance and progress at school. Spurgeons are also involved in quarterly Child Protection Conferences which plan for a young carers at school.

4.3 Councillor Elaine Chumnery who is the Councillor for College Park and Old Oak raised concerns about the number of hidden young carers in her constituency. In response to Councillor Chumnery's concerns, Spurgeons are developing an outreach programme to ascertain the needs of young carers in the areas of College Park and Old Oak with the hope of attracting more young people into their services from those areas.

5 WORK WITH EARLY HELP SERVICE

- 5.1** The Early Help service has identified Young Carer Champions, one in both the North and South Locality teams, whose role is to regularly update their fellow practitioners on the services provided for young carers, reinforcing the need to ask questions about caring responsibilities as part of their early help assessments and to encourage the building of relationship with Spurgeons to support referrals.
- 5.2** There is an Early Help “named contact” for most schools in the borough who can provide advice and consultation in identifying young carers and ensuring that they receive appropriate support in school or through other support services. The Early Help “named contact” in the schools can also assist to raise awareness of the referral processes and services such as Spurgeons.
- 5.3** The Early Help service offers individual direct work and family support to families in relation to young carers’ roles as part of a broader plan that supports the adults in the family who may have physical or emotional health needs. Part of the broader support plan also looks to ensure that children and young people who are young carers are engaged in education as they are at higher levels of risk of poor school attendance or not being in education, employment or training (NEET).
- 5.4** “Team around the school” meetings, that are currently being developed by the Early Help service in conjunction with schools can also include a discussion on trends in relation to young carers, raising awareness of best practice, and highlighting any changes to legislation, so that the various partners who attend the meeting can assist in the process of identifying young carers across the borough.

6 NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 6.1** As part of the Children and Families Act and Care Act 2014 a statutory responsibility has been placed on local authorities to undertake an assessment of young carers’ need for support on request or when the need becomes apparent. Children’s Services Commissioning Directorate have been working with the Family Support Localities Service and Spurgeons to establish links and processes which would facilitate the local authority to meet the duty to carry out assessments when requested.
- 6.2** Spurgeons have established links with the Hammersmith and Fulham assessment team, which has provided them with a clear pathway for referring requests for young carers assessment onto the appropriate professionals when required. Spurgeons are looking to deliver a presentation at an assessment team meeting where they will highlight the importance of carers assessments, and its impact on young carers and their family.
- 6.3** With the commissioning of a new young carers service for 1st April 2016, it is planned that the service will play a significant role in developing clearly defined processes around how carers assessments can be requested and how they

should be undertaken.

- 6.4** For more information on the new legislative requirements in relation to young carers please see appendix 3.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	None	N/A	N/A

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Service Objectives

Appendix 2 – Output Targets and Performance

Appendix 3 - Young Carers Legislative Information