

Eligibility Criteria for Gloucestershire Young Carers

Please feel free to contact us if you are unsure whether or not a referral is appropriate.

Definition

A young carer is a young person under the age of 18 who takes on, or intends to take on, a caring responsibility for a family member with a disability, long term illness, experiencing mental ill health or affected by substance misuse. The care may take the form of physical or emotional support (Children and Families Act 2014).

Young people taking on a caring role aged 16 to 24 are termed Young Adult Carers.

Service Offer

Following triage, our initial offer of a service is a strengths and needs based assessment to establish the level of caring responsibility. The outcome of the assessment will determine the level of support and services GYC can offer the young person and their family, therefore not all our services are guaranteed to every young carer. As a standard, with parental consent, we will liaise with schools and GPs, and families will receive our regular newsletter.

Eligibility Criteria

Gloucestershire Young Carers provides services for young carers aged 8-24. Where there are concerns about a child taking on caring responsibilities who is under 8 years we are able to offer information and advice to any professional supporting the child and/or family.

When referring you will be asked to identify the practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities undertaken by the child or young person and the impact those responsibilities are having upon at least one of the following:

- physical/mental health
- education
- emotional and behavioural development
- family and social/peer relationships.

Where caring responsibilities or impact on the child or young person are unclear, you will be asked to clarify.

Priority will be given to 'primary' young carers i.e. where there is no adult carer and to 'secondary' young carers who need to provide substantial support due to family circumstances.

Children and young people may *not* be eligible if:

- their caring responsibilities do not have an adverse impact on physical/mental health, education, emotional or behavioural development
- care tasks are age appropriate and do not exceed what an 'average' child of their age would undertake (e.g. a teenager helping with some house work, walking to the local shop etc)
- they are living with a family member who is ill, disabled or misusing substances but are not providing care for that person
- their caring responsibilities are due to parenting issues or neglect (i.e. caring for siblings because parents are working or inattentive)
- there is no parental consent and the young carer is under 18 years of age.

Following assessment we will then inform the family and the referrer whether we are able to offer a service.

If you wish to discuss your referral further please contact Karen James, Senior Practitioner, on 01452 733060.