

**SUBJECT: Monmouthshire Young Carers Strategy 2017-20**  
**DIRECTORATE: Social Services**  
**MEETING: CABINET**  
**DATE: 2017**  
**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Social Services**

**1. PURPOSE:**

To gain the approval of Cabinet, for the publication of the Monmouthshire Young Carers Strategy 2017-2020.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- i. That Cabinet approves the publication of the strategy.
- ii. That Cabinet approves the strategy as a monitoring and evaluation tool for service provision and future planning of services for carers and service providers.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

**What is the Monmouthshire Young Carers Strategy?**

The strategy will bring a voice to and visibility of young carers in Monmouthshire. This strategy is the tool by which we can ensure the young carers voice is heard to instigate change, action and improvement for their lives as young carers. This is the first strategy young carers have had in Monmouthshire.

**Outcomes for Carers**

The Strategy focuses on achieving improved outcomes for young carers, and to minimize the reliance placed upon young carers in providing inappropriate and disproportionate, health, wellbeing and social care for the person they are caring for. By minimising the level of care that young carers undertake they will have the ability to develop as a child and young person in their own right, so that when they reach adulthood they can feel confident that the choices they make will not have a negative impact on the cared for. The outcomes identified are to provide preventative mechanisms so the cared for needs do not engulf that of the young person.

**Outcomes for Service Provision**

The strategy will shape a cohesive and collaborative partnership that ensures the earliest identification and support of young carers in Monmouthshire over the next 3 years. The strategy will be used as a monitoring tool for current and future service provision. The strategy has clearly defined 8 themes, identified and agreed by young carers, which offer young carer focussed outcomes. This document will be used in partnership with young carers, service providers (both statutory and third sector) and

commissioners as a tool to identify where ownership is placed in providing long term sustainable plans to meet the needs of young carers, and for the provision of care planning.

#### **4. REASONS:**

- The Strategy will focus on achieving improved outcomes for young carers, no matter from where and which organisation/sector they will receive it.
- It clearly defines 8 key themes, as agreed by young carers, with outcomes that the Monmouthshire young carers partnership can collaboratively use as a template for the earliest identification of young carers so they receive timely and appropriate support.
- It is the first strategy for young carers in Monmouthshire that provides a cohesive overview and understanding as to the life of a young carer, and their needs.
- It will act as a monitoring template for the provision, delivery and shaping of support for young carers and subsequent services
- It will be used to identify hidden young carers and therefore provide Monmouthshire with a better picture of the numbers of carers within the county, and to future plan for young adult carers.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- The financial costs of printing the Strategy is circa £2.0k. Provision has been made to ensure this can be met from carers' budget.
- Future reprinting costs will be inbuilt into future financial years' budgets
- The production of the strategy will allow for a proactive based monitoring, consultation and engagement process with young carers and partners.
- The Young Carers Project contract currently sits within the Local Service Board, Chief Executive Dept. However, with changes in legislation young carers are entitled to a carers assessments which are being undertaken by the Carers Team, Social Services. As a result of this strategy there will be identified unmet need for both the young carer and cared for, which could have budgetary and service delivery implications on Children's Services and Adult Services.

#### **6. FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION SUMMARY: (ATTACHED)**

Following a survey in 2010, the BBC estimated there were around 700,000 young carers in the UK, which means that in every school or college there is a young carer. The 2011 census identified 195,000 young carers in the UK with 178,000 of those young carers coming from England or Wales. With such variances in the data on the number of young carers known in the UK it would therefore correlate that regional and locality data would too be inaccurate. What is known is that in Monmouthshire, at the time of going to print, the Young Carers Project in Monmouthshire is supporting 130 young

carers. There is a recognition by Monmouthshire County Council and partner organisations that there are many more young carers we do not know of, and many children and young people who do not recognise themselves as a young carer. This strategy will help us to find those hidden young carers, work in different ways and allow us to build a better of picture of young carers in Monmouthshire.

The strategy is a result of consultation with young carers, who agreed the 8 main themes that were of most importance to them as a young carer. All known young carers were invited to the engagement event circa 30 attended, and the draft strategy has been circulated to all young carers known to the young carers project, during the consultation period.

## **7. CONSULTEES:**

The Monmouthshire Carers Strategy 2017-20 has been produced through consultation with:

A collaborative and consultative engagement event on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

- Attendees included Young Carers, social care & education professionals, third sector, elected members and health.

Draft documents were circulated for comments and views via

- Providers of services for Young Carers, both internal and external stakeholders
- Monmouthshire Carers Strategy Group
- Young Carers Project

Monmouthshire young carers' have identified their needs that will maintain their own sense of health and wellbeing and the support they require to adequately meet the needs of those they care for. This strategy will help shape how partners work together to support young carers in Monmouthshire.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS: (attached)**

The Monmouthshire Young Carers Strategy 2017-20.

## **9. AUTHOR:**

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