

Hampshire Practice Guidance for Adult and Children's Services in supporting Young Carers within a Whole Family working model.

Linked and complimentary documents:

- The Whole Family Pathway¹
- Hampshire's Multi-agency strategy for Young Carers 2009-2012²
- A Model Local Memorandum of Understanding: Working Together to Support Young Carers Associate Directors of Adults Services and Associate Directors of Children's Services.³
- Hampshire Think Family Strategy – Awaiting info⁴
- Hampshire Parenting Strategy – Awaiting info⁵
- *Executive Summary of the Information Sharing Protocol about Children and Young People* (2010) Hampshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership⁶
- Getting Personal: a fair deal for better care and support' Hampshire Personalisation Agenda⁷
- Hampshire Children's Trust Thresholds Chart
http://www3.hants.gov.uk/threshold_chart-2.pdf⁸
- Joint Hampshire Mental Health Commissioning Strategy (Under consultation)
- Hampshire County Council (2008) Joint Working Protocol: Safeguarding children whose parents/carers use drugs/alcohol or have mental health needs (under review)

This Document should be disseminated to:

- Hampshire Children's Services
- Hampshire Adult Services
- All Schools (including teachers, school workers, governors and extended services) to include Academies and Free Schools
- Primary Care Trusts (including GP's, Community Health Services and midwifery)
- Hospital discharge teams
- Emergency services
- Hampshire Partnership Foundation Trust
- Surrey and Borders Partnership Foundation
- Hampshire DAAT
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police (including Community Support Officers and Accredited Community Support Officers)
- Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (YISP) and Youth Offending Teams
- District Councils
- Voluntary agencies (including Parenting and Young Carers Projects)
- Young Carers and their Families (service users)

Guidance issued : 1st July 2011

To be reviewed : March 2012

Joint Statement of Intent

FOREWORD

Young carers tell us that they value their caring roles and are often proud of the contribution they are able to make in their families. All too often, however, children and young people become carers because someone in their family has significant unmet care needs arising from disabilities, mental health needs or substance misuse. All too often young carers have stepped into the breach, sometimes assuming a level of responsibility that no child should be expected to take on.

In 2001 there were an estimated 175,000 young carers in the UK [1] [17] with around a third caring for a person with a mental illness. It is likely the actual number is higher and research [2] has suggested that around a third of young carers are involved in inappropriate and excessive caring with consequent knock-on effects on schooling and other key areas of their lives.

Children and young people who care have the same rights as all children and young people and we should be pursuing the same outcomes for them. They should be able to learn, achieve, develop friendships and enjoy positive, healthy childhoods just like other children.

Putting People First [4] emphasises that care services should be delivered in ways which sustain families, avoids the need to take on inappropriate caring roles and prevents further inappropriate caring. This policy aim, which is also reflected within the 2008 national strategy for carers, is an underpinning principle of the model Memorandum of Understanding. In Hampshire we will do this by working together, across systems and in partnership with health and local carers' organisations and within the resources available, to achieve our goals of ensuring where a parent or another family member has care needs arising from a disability, substance misuse, or mental illness, that children are protected from excessive or inappropriate caring roles; further inappropriate caring is prevented; parents feel supported in their parenting role; and, transition to adulthood is supported; Therefore,

- no care or support package for a parent or sibling relies on excessive or inappropriate caring by a young carer to make it sustainable;
- young carers are helped to achieve their potential; and, to have the same access to education, career choices and broader opportunities as their peers; and,
- there is better recognition and greater participation of young carers and their families in shaping what we do and in the development and delivery of resources that promote greater choice and control and prevent further inappropriate caring.

It is essential, where services are working with families, that we should ensure that the needs of dependent children in the family, including those who may be assisting with caring, are recognised. This means taking account of their hopes, aspirations, strengths and achievements and the need for advice and support for all the family.

Young carers and their families are experts on their own lives. It falls to professionals across all sectors to include them in shaping the personalised responses that best suit their needs within the whole family approach adopted. The approaches and goals we are setting out, however, apply no matter how competent or willing the young carer may appear to be. They apply equally whether care needs arise as a result of mental or physical illness, substance misuse, disability; or whether a parent or a sibling is the focus of support. We recognise that progress has been and continues to be made at local level. The purpose of this document is to provide a

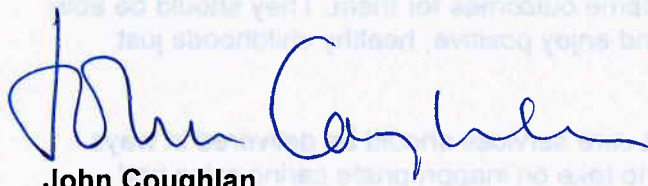
framework on which all areas can build and offers staff in schools and adults and children's services a clear framework within which they can develop and provide personalised and joined up support for young carers and their families. This applies equally when working in partnership with colleagues in health and the third sectors.

It will help us all to deliver:

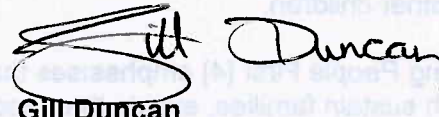
- better joined-up support around and with the family as a whole consistent with the whole family pathway approach;
- enhanced partnership working with carers' organisations, young carers projects, health, local communities and independent sector stakeholders.

This Hampshire based Memorandum of Understanding has been developed by The Children's Society on behalf of Hampshire County Council, Adult and Children's Services Departments in liaison with the Hampshire young Carers Steering group and is based on 'A Model Local Memorandum of Understanding between Statutory Directors for Children's Services and Adult Social Services Working Together To Support Young Carers -2009.

SIGNED



John Coughlan
Director of Children's Services



Gill Duncan
Director of Adult Services



'I would like an assessment for each person in need in our family and for all professionals to get together and talk about us as a family rather than as separate individuals' Disabled parent



Hampshire Community Health Care



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Key aims and outcomes

We (Hampshire County Council) aim to promote and improve the health and well-being of young carers and their families by preventing and protecting children and young people from undertaking excessive and inappropriate caring roles and responsibilities and preventing the continuation of inappropriate caring. This will be grounded in effective use of supportive practice guidance such as the **Key Principles of Practice**⁹ and within the outcome frameworks provided by **Putting People First**¹⁰ and **Every Child Matters**¹¹. Where a parent or another family member has care or welfare needs arising from physical or mental illness, substance misuse, or disability we will work together and with our partners in health and carers organisations to ensure that

- there are no “wrong doors” and that young carers are identified, assessed and their families are supported in ways that prevent inappropriate caring and support parenting roles regardless of which service is contacted first;
- risks to independence, safety and welfare are responded to with a ‘whole family approach’
- earlier, better integrated and effective responses to young carers and their families are available using “**whole family pathway**” approaches;
- children are protected from excessive or inappropriate caring roles; further inappropriate caring is prevented; transition to adulthood is supported; parents feel supported in their parenting role; and;
- no care or support package for a parent or sibling relies on excessive or inappropriate caring by a young carer to make it sustainable;
- young carers are helped to achieve their potential; and, to have the same access to education, career choices and broader opportunities as their peers; and,
- there is better recognition and greater participation of young carers and their families in shaping what we do and in the development and delivery of responses that promote greater choice and control and prevent further inappropriate caring.

It is essential, where services are working with families that we should ensure that the needs of dependent children in the family, including those who may be assisting with caring, are recognised. This means taking account of their hopes, aspirations, strengths and achievements and the need for advice and support for all the family. - *Memorandum of Understanding (2009)*³

Definition of young carers

*‘The term young carer should be taken to include children and young people under the age of 18 who provide regular and ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mental ill, disabled or misuses substances. - Memorandum of Understanding (2009)*³

We will continue to work together to develop a shared and more detailed understanding of the different types and levels of caring in our area. Our main focus, however, will be to ensure we develop better ways of identifying where caring by children risks becoming excessive and/or inappropriate and putting in place the support that prevents this happening.

The central issues for us are those of recognition, adverse impact and support, including emotional support. Our approach relies on the premise, within a whole family approach, that:

'a young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for that child, risking impacting on his or her emotional or physical well being or educational achievements and life chances'

- Key Principles of Practice (2008)⁹

Identification

Not all children who have ill or disabled parents or siblings take on caring roles or do so in ways that cause difficulties. Circumstances will vary. What is important is that we work closely with the family and the young person so that reasonable steps can be taken to pre-empt likely problems and any emerging difficulties can be identified at an early stage.

Adult Services, in addition to supporting disabled parents, have a key role in identifying young carers, as they will often be the first point of contact. At the point of assessing the cared-for person, adult services must ask whether the person they are assessing has children and, if they do, what impact they feel their disability has on them.

Schools and colleges take responsibility to identify young carers at an early stage and where possible have a named staff member with lead responsibility for young carers: a) to ensure that they have the same access to a full education and career choices as their peers; and b) to be responsible for promoting and co-ordinating the support they need and liaising with other agencies as appropriate.

Health professionals are likely to be the first people that a family turns to for help with an illness or disability. Whether they work in a hospital or community, with adults or children, they may be the only person who is able to ask the right questions to find out that a child is taking on caring responsibilities. Timely intervention could prevent a child undertaking inappropriate levels of care. Additionally, GP surgeries should have registers identifying carers, including young carers.

Signs indicating that a child/young person may be a young carer

- Problems at school, not completing homework, absenteeism, lateness and inability to take part in after school activities
- Social Isolation from other children their age, feeling that no one else can understand his or her experience
- Lack of free time for play, sports and leisure activities
- Can be behavioural problems, in some cases including youth offending activity
- Emotional impacts, such as worry, depression, self-harm.
- Lack of aspirations and career opportunities
- Increased Independence and maturity for their age
- Advanced life skills such as a caring attitude or being a good listener
- Increased knowledge of disability and illness

Information sharing

We are agreed that effective and timely information sharing between our own agencies and with our partners is critical to the provision of early intervention and preventative work; to support transitions; and, for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young carers. Local arrangements for information sharing are outlined in *Executive Summary of the Information Sharing Protocol about Children and Young People* (2010)⁶ (Appendix 1 Flowchart)

The 7 golden rules for information sharing are:

- Understand Data Protection legislation is not a barrier to sharing information
- Be open and honest
- Seek advice when necessary
- Share consent where appropriate
- Consider the child's safety and welfare
- Gather and keep information that is necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure
- Keep a record of information shared

(This is based on national guidance outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding³ and HM Government (2008) Guidance¹²)

Assessments

The key to change is the development of a whole family approach and for all agencies to work together, including children's and adults' services, to offer co-ordinated assessments and services to the child and the whole family.

Giving inappropriate levels of care can affect a child's physical and emotional well-being and personal, social and educational development. This will vary according to a child's age, level and impact of caring, and therefore only a good assessment can identify when intervention and additional support for the child and/or parent is needed.

Equally, any assessment of a young carer under the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need should automatically trigger an assessment or review of personal care needs and any parenting support for the person with the illness or disability.

Ascertain what needs to change

Providing an assessment only for the child will not necessarily resolve the situation that has caused their referral. All assessments should ascertain **why** the child is caring, the extent of the caring responsibility and what needs to change in order to prevent them undertaking inappropriate levels of care and responsibility which impact on their own well-being.

Timely assessments of both the person who needs care and the whole family could prevent a child undertaking inappropriate levels of care in the first place.

When a referral is made about a parent with a disability, substance dependency or illness, we will establish whether there is a child in the family who is providing personal care or practical help. In doing so, we will also be expected to consider, within a whole family approach, the impact of the disability or illness on any child within the family; including whether any of them are or could be providing some form of care or not.

Assessments should not only identify regular individual personal care needs (including safeguarding), but also consider the range of parenting, caring and family tasks that are needed when professional carers are not present and that may result in the child assuming responsibility.

Action should be taken to assess:

- Whether a child is undertaking (or at risk of) caring tasks?
- Why is a child undertaking care?
- What additional services may be needed to ensure Parent's care needs are met, sustain a family unit and to prevent a child taking on or continuing to hold inappropriate caring responsibilities. (Personalisation)) 7
- Whether the parent needs support in his or her parenting role or in developing parenting capacity.

- What can be offered to help the whole family or to maximise the broader support which others in the family are able to provide.
- Whether the impact on the child indicates that it would be appropriate to undertake an assessment under the Framework for Assessment of Children in Need¹³ and their Families or under the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000¹⁴
- Whether there are additional needs falling within the Common Assessment Framework for Children¹⁵

A whole family approach will be embedded in assessments and we will ensure:

- The primary responsibility for responding to the needs of young carers derives from the person in need of care and support. This means that whichever service identifies there is a young carer in the family, whether it is Children's or Adult's social care services or Health they are responsible for assessing the needs of that young carer within that family context.
- Practitioners will seek advice and support where necessary from colleagues, whether it is children's or Adult' social services or a partner agency, to support discharge of joint and separate responsibilities towards young carers and their families.
- Practitioners will be aware of the prejudices and stereotypes that may exist around cultures, and disability, or about adults who misuse drugs/alcohol or have mental health needs and in terms of their parenting capacity and competence.
- Practitioners will reach their conclusions on the basis of the evidence of their observation of both parents and children; including any young carers.

Joint assessment by adult, child and family and health staff will be expected where this is appropriate. Access to specialist advice and support should be available as needed. Finally, we should never ignore any aspect of a situation that indicates there are concerns about children's and /or vulnerable adults' safety and they require protection from harm.

During an assessment process, we should also:

- Consider the family as a whole, acknowledge parents' strengths and beware of undermining parenting capacity
- Work with colleagues from all sectors including with the voluntary sector where appropriate.
- Ensure that the assessment process is appropriate to carer's age and specific to their needs as a young carer
- Recognise that families may be fearful of acknowledging children's caring roles
- Ascertain if the illness/disability is stable or changing
- Maintain a focus on positive outcomes for the young person and their family when working with other departments/ agencies
- Respond to young carers needs for emotional support and counselling
- Consider the family's housing needs and access to benefits
- Be sensitive to cultural perceptions and needs around disability, illness and caring whilst recognising a child's fundamental rights to a safe and secure childhood
- Recognise there may be differences of view between children and parents about appropriate levels of care. Such differences may not be acknowledged. The resolution of such tensions will require good quality joint work between adult and children's social services as well as co-operation from schools and health care workers. This work should include direct work with the young carer to understand his/her views. The young person who is a primary carer of his or her parent or sibling may have a good understanding of the family's functioning and needs, which should be incorporated into the assessment.¹⁶

- Ensure that any lead professional, Adult or Children's Services, should have access to and hold multi-agency information and assess the whole family regularly. (Considerations should be made to who is deemed to be an appropriate lead professional.)

Safeguarding

We accept a joint responsibility to work in partnership with others to identify and respond to any young carers who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm and to protect them from this harm. We will ensure discharge of our responsibilities in ways that focus on working together, early intervention and prevention; reflect practice guidance; do not stigmatize families or risk increasing the number of hidden young carers; and do not discourage young carers and their families from seeking information and advice, or an assessment and provision of services.

Children's safeguarding

We will:

- State clearly the responsibilities of staff under local safeguarding children procedures to make referrals where children are considered to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and emphasise the principle that safeguarding is everyone's business.
- Ensure staff in all sectors have undertaken appropriate training in recognising harm, reporting concerns about a child's welfare and safety and confirming referrals they have made to children's social care within 48 hours.
- Ensure staff across all sectors have undertaken training in relation to disability and illness, including HIV, mental health and substance misuse.
- Make sure our arrangements for young carers and their families reflect any requirements of local multi-agency and single agency policies for safeguarding children and seek inclusion as necessary.

Adults safeguarding

We will:

- Ensure awareness of safeguarding Adult policy and practice; the ability to recognise and respond to safeguarding Adult concerns; and promote confidence and consistency in using local multi-agency procedures by staff in across all agencies.

Adults Services – all services, statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and independent working with adults / parents in Hampshire

When a referral is made for an adult with a disability or illness, consider:

Does the adult have children?	⇒	Make a note of this, including any ages.	
Is the adult vulnerable or 'at risk'?	⇒	Use vulnerable adult process	
Is the child at risk of significant harm?	⇒	Use LSCB procedure 4lscb.org.uk	
Is there a child that maybe providing care?	⇒	Ask why and what needs to change to reduce or prevent inappropriate caring?	
Are any other agencies and departments in contact with the family?	⇒	Contact them, share information and work together.	⇒ More information www.youngcarer.com Whole Family Pathway
Have the adults care needs been assessed?	⇒	Discuss with the appropriate person to offer the adult an assessment Is there a CAFA in place?	⇒ Join up with the lead professional to ensure it takes into account parenting needs
Is the caring role significant enough to impact on the child's life?	⇒	Join up with Children's Services – consider requesting an assessment (Carers Assessment or CAF) Refer to a young carers service. www.hyca.hampshire.org.uk	⇒ Re-assess the parents needs, taking into account their parenting role
What is needed to support the whole family?	⇒	Ask the client, record it and join up with relevant agencies to provide whole family support.	⇒ Consider a multi-agency meeting to discuss the whole family's needs. Agree who is providing what and regularly review the needs of the whole family
	⇒	Is the adults condition stable or changing?	⇒ Assessments and care packages consider how support will: - meet changing or episodic conditions - <input type="checkbox"/> include plans for crisis provision to prevent a child from taking on a caring role in the future

The Whole Family Pathway¹ offers comprehensive signposting facilities for individual services: www.youngcarer.com

Hampshire Children's Trust Thresholds Chart⁸ outlines levels of intervention and agencies and responsibilities involved. http://www3.hants.gov.uk/threshold_chart-2.pdf

Children's Services - all services, statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and independent working with children and young people in Hampshire

When a referral is made for a child who is a young carer consider:

Is the child at risk of significant harm?	⇒	Use HSCB procedure 4lscb.org.uk	
Is the adult vulnerable or 'at risk'?	⇒	Use vulnerable adult process	
Ask why the child is caring and what need to change.	⇒	A referral of a young carer to children's services should automatically trigger a review of the needs of the person who requires care.	⇒ More information at www.youngcarer.com The Whole Family Pathway
Is the caring role significant enough to impact on the child's life?	⇒	Refer the young person to an appropriate support service www.hyca.hampshire.org.uk	⇒
	⇒	Has a CAF been done?	⇒ Join up with the lead professional. Does the action plan take into account their caring role?
	⇒		⇒ Consider whether a CAF would be appropriate
Are the child's school aware of the family situation?	⇒	If appropriate (ask) Contact them, signpost to education support	⇒ More information www.youngcarer.com
What can be offered to support the whole family?	⇒	Join up with relevant agencies to provide an emergency plan to prevent caring in the future	⇒ Consider a multi-agency meeting to discuss the whole family's needs.(Team Around the Family –TAF) Agree who is providing what and regularly review the needs of the whole family

The Whole Family Pathway¹ offers comprehensive signposting facilities for individual services: www.youngcarer.com

Hampshire Children's Trust Thresholds Chart⁸ outlines levels of intervention and agencies and responsibilities involved. http://www3.hants.gov.uk/threshold_chart-2.pdf

Supporting Appendices

References:

- ¹Leadbitter, H. (2008) *The Whole Family Pathway*. Published by The Children's Society in partnership with The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Disabled Parents Network.
www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarer
- ² **Hampshire's multi-agency strategy for young carers 2009-2012** Hampshire County Council (2009) www.youngcarer.com/resources
- ³ ADASS and ADCS (2009) *Working Together to Support Young Carers – A Model Local Memorandum of Understanding between Statutory Directors for Children's Services and Adult Social Services* (available at www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarer)
- ⁴ Hampshire Think Family Strategy
- ⁵ Hampshire Parenting Strategy
- ⁶ *Executive Summary of the Information Sharing Protocol about Children and Young People* (2010) Hampshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- ⁷ Getting Personal: a fair deal for better care and support' Hampshire Personalisation Agenda
- ⁸ Hampshire Children's Trust Thresholds Chart, Hampshire County Council
http://www3.hants.gov.uk/threshold_chart-2.pdf
- ⁹ Frank, J. and McLarnon, J. (2008) *Young carers, parents and their families: Key Principles of Practice. Supportive practice guidance for those working directly with, or commission services for young carers and their families*. London: The Children's Society
www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarer
- ¹⁰ **Putting People First: a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care**, HM Government and others, December 2007
- ¹¹ HM Government, **Every Child Matter, Change for Children**, Department for Education and Skills 2004
- ¹² HM Government (2008) Information Sharing, DfE Updated
<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00807-2008&>
- ¹³ **Framework for the Assessment for Children in Need and their Families 2000**
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4008144
- ¹⁴ Department of Health, **Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000, and Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004, Combined Guidance**, Department of Health and Department for Education and Skills, August 2005
- ¹⁵ **Common Assessment Framework**, Every Child Matters, CWDC, July 2009 (updated)
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/delivering-services/caf/
- ¹⁶ **Fair Access to Care Services: Guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care (2003)**
www.dh.gov.uk
- ¹⁷ **The Good Governance Standard for Public Services**, The Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services. OPM & CIPFA, 2004.

Legislation and Guidance outlining the assessment of young carers and their families

National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990

Section 47(1):

Subject to subsections (5) and (6) [...], where it appears to a local authority that any person for whom they may provide or arrange for the provision of Community Care services may be in need of any such services the Authority:-

- (a) shall carry out an assessment of his needs for those services; and
- (b) having regard to the results of that assessment, shall then decide whether his needs call for the provision by them of any such services.

Framework for the Assessment for Children in Need and their Families 2000

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4008144

3.62 An assessment of family circumstances is essential. Young carers should not be expected to carry inappropriate levels of caring which have an adverse impact on their development and life chances. It should not be assumed that children should take on similar levels of caring responsibilities as adults. Services should be provided to parents to enhance their ability to fulfil their parenting responsibilities. There may be differences of view between children and parents about appropriate levels of care. Such differences may be out in the open or concealed. The resolution of such tensions will require good quality joint work between adult and children's social services as well as co-operation from schools and health care workers. This work should include direct work with the young carer to understand his or her perspective and opinions. The young person who is a primary carer of his or her parent or sibling may have a good understanding of the family's functioning and needs which should be incorporated into the assessment.

3.63 Young carers can receive help from both local and health authorities. Where a child is providing a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for a parent, the child will be entitled to an assessment of their ability to care under section 1(1) of the *Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995* and the local authority must take that assessment into account in deciding what community care services to provide for the parent. Many young carers are not aware that they can ask for such an assessment. In addition, consideration must be given as to whether a young carer is a child in need under the Children Act 1989. The central issue is whether a child's welfare or development might suffer if support is not provided to the child or family. As part of the *National Strategy for Carers* (1999a), local authorities should take steps to identify children with additional family burdens. Services should be provided to promote the health and development of young carers while not undermining the parent.

Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995

http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga_19950012_en_1.htm

1(1) Subject to subsection (3), in any case where:-

- (a) A Local Authority carries out an assessment under Section 47(1)(a) of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 of the needs of a person ("the relevant person") for Community Care services; and
- (b) an individual ("the carer") provides or intends to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for the relevant person, the carer may

request the Local Authority, before they make their decision as to whether the needs of the relevant person call for the provision of any services, to carry out an assessment of his ability to provide, and to continue to provide, care for the relevant person; and if he makes such a request, the Local Authority shall carry out such an assessment and shall take into account the results of that assessment in making that decision

Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

Explanatory notes, paragraph 10:

The Act requires local authorities to inform carers, in certain circumstances, that they may be entitled to an assessment under the 1995 and 2000 Acts. That when undertaking a carer's assessment, the local authority must consider whether the carer works, undertakes any form of education, training or leisure activity, or wishes to do any of those things. And, the Act provides for co-operation between local authorities and other bodies in relation to the planning and provision of services that are relevant to carers.

Common Assessment Framework

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/caf/

The CAF is particularly useful in universal services (health and education), as a means of identifying and tackling problems before they become serious. The use of CAF should streamline relationships between school and specialist support services.

CAF guides for managers and practitioners

State that "Particular regard may need to be given to joint working between children and adult services when CAF has been undertaken specifically because of child or young persons caring responsibilities"

The Children's Act 2004 and guidance

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/quiacne

Any assessment of a young carer must, ascertain the child's wishes regarding provision of services and give due consideration to these wishes and feelings of the child as they have been able to ascertain.

National Service Framework for Mental Health 1999

STANDARD 6 - Caring for carers

Outlines the roles and responsibilities of Social Services, G.Ps, Primary Care Teams and others with regards to assessing and meeting carers' needs including young carers.

Social Services Inspectorate (1996) **Young Carers Making a Start**: Practice Guide to the Carers (recognition of Services) Act 1995

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/AdvanceSearchResult/index.htm?searchTerms=young+care+rs++Making+a+start>

This document contains practical guidance and checklist on completing assessments.

Further information on assessment checklists and guidance are available in the Key Principles of Practice

Tools to support working

ADASS and ADCS (2009) **Working Together to Support Young Carers – A Model Local Memorandum of Understanding between Statutory Directors for Children's Services and Adult Social Services** (available at www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarer)

Leadbitter, H. (2008) ***The Whole Family Pathway***. Published by The Children's Society in partnership with The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Disabled Parents Network. www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarer

Frank, J. and McLarnon, J. (2008) ***Young carers, parents and their families: Key Principles of Practice***. Supportive practice guidance for those working directly with, or commission services for young carers and their families. London: The Children's Society www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarer

Supporting disabled parents and parents with additional support needs: Morris J. and Wates M. Social Care Institute for Excellence Knowledge Review 2006 <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/knowledgereviews/kr11.pdf>

Further National Guidance and Legislation

The Direct Payments Guidance (DH 2002)

www.dh.gov.uk

Guidance on implementing direct payments states that "Councils should ensure that needs assessments for disabled adults include parenting responsibilities"

Fair Access to Care Services: Guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care (2003)

Outlines that '...all assessments of adults must include a check to find out if there are children in the family who either take or are at risk of taking on a caring role.'

www.dh.gov.uk

HM Government (2008) Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities, 'A caring system on your side. A life of your own'. The Department of Health.

www.dh.gov.uk

"Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the Every Child Matters outcomes.

It advocates: action to ensure better joined-up support around the family training for staff in local services on whole-family working."

The Children's Plan 2007

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/downloads/The_Childrens_Plan.pdf

States that, for young carers –

"Services should adopt a whole family approach. This means that children's and adult services must have arrangements in place to ensure that no young person's life is unnecessarily restricted because they are providing significant care to an adult with an identifiable community care need"

The Children's Act 1989

Section 17(2) enables Local authorities to provide services not only to the 'child in need' but to anyone else 'if it is provided with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare' of the child in need.

The Children's Act 2004

Any assessment of a young carer must, ascertain the child's wishes regarding provision of services and give due consideration to these wishes and feelings of the child as they have been able to ascertain.

Putting People First (HM Government, 2007)

"Sustain a family unit, which avoids children being required to take on inappropriate caring roles"

Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 related guidance

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/practiceguides/carersguidance/about.asp>

- Encourage better information sharing between Adult Mental Health Services and Children's Services to support parental responsibilities (Early exchange of information)
- Encourage & support the effective implementation of interagency, whole family assessments and service delivery at local practice levels
- Consultation, training & awareness raising
- No care package should depend on the inappropriate caring of a child

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) guides for managers and practitioners

"Particular regard may need to be given to joint working between children and adult services when CAF has been undertaken specifically because of child or young persons caring responsibilities"

Adult Common Assessment Framework

"Adults who have parenting responsibilities for a child under 18 years may require help with these responsibilities"

HM Government (2008) Information Sharing Guidance

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00807-2008&>

Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families Guidance

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4003256&chk=Fss1ka

Working together to safeguard children (DfE 2010) sets out how individuals and organisations should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00305-2010>

Hampshire Specific Strategy's and Guidance

Hampshire County Council (2009) Children's and Young People's Plan

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrenandyoungpeople/cypp/cypp-vision.htm>

Identifies young carers as a vulnerable group and the associated priorities are:

- Ensuring that you have the same opportunities and choices as other children and young people to succeed at school, participate in activities out-of-school and have fun.
- Providing support and counselling when you need it and creating opportunities for you to meet with other young carers, including specialist projects and community based activities.
- Raising awareness and understanding of the challenges you face with all those who work with and support you and your family.

Hampshire County Council (2009) Hampshire's multi-agency strategy for young carers 2009-2012 www.youngcarer.com/resources

The vision is to: 'To identify and significantly reduce the numbers of young people undertaking inappropriate and harmful caring roles, by reducing the incidence of families with unmet care needs relying on the care of a child, which impacts on their wellbeing and life chances' and one the specified areas of work includes: "Using whole family, interagency approach to assessments and service delivery"

Hampshire County Council (2008) **Joint Working Protocol: Safeguarding children whose parents / carers use drugs / alcohol or have mental ill health**

www.youngcarer.com/resources

'to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people (including young carers) whose lives are affected by parents/carers using drugs/alcohol or by parents/carers with mental health needs'

Useful Websites.

The Children's Society Hampshire Young Carers Initiative

www.youngcarer.com/hampshire

Hampshire County Council – Information and Links

www3.hants.gov.uk

Hampshire Young Carers Alliance

www.hyca.hampshire.org.uk

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers – Professionals website and young carers forum site

www.carers.org/professionals

www.youngcarers.net