

Meeting of:	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 19 March 2020
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Support for Young Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan
Purpose of Report:	To update Scrutiny Committee on support for young carers
Report Owner:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Responsible Officer:	Martine Coles, Vulnerable Groups Manager
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	<p>CLlr Lis Burnett</p> <p>Morwen Hudson, Head of Standards and Provision</p>
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report is to make Members aware of the number of young people in the Vale of Glamorgan who identify themselves as young carers and the services and support available to them. • In January 2020, there were 102 young carers who had been identified across both primary and secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. This number changed to 101 in March 2020. • The number of young carers in the Vale of Glamorgan is too small and the numbers are not reliable to be able to analyse differences in educational attainment and attendance with those who are not young carers. Analysis can take place on an individual level using pupil reports. 	

Recommendation

1. That Members note the support provided by the Local Authority and schools for young carers.

Reason for Recommendation

1. That Members consider further support required for young carers.

1. Background

- 1.1 Following a presentation to Committee by Social Services, a report was requested in relation to the activities and steps undertaken to assist young carers in schools across the Vale of Glamorgan and their educational attainment.
- 1.2 The Directorate continues to develop its response to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and manage its statutory responsibilities and local needs within its resources, making the most of collaborative arrangements and funding streams where appropriate.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 increased the rights of carers. This enabled local authorities to build on the services and support already in place.
- 2.2 Young carers self-identify and wherever possible, schools record the number of young carers on roll in schools in order that they, and the Council, can consider what support and/or assistance could be provided to young people.
- 2.3 In January 2020, 102 young carers have self-identified across 25 primary and secondary schools. Schools record young carers on their information management system (SIMS) and a local authority register is compiled. Schools are able to track and monitor the progress and outcomes for young carers as they currently do for other groups of vulnerable learners. A case study of how schools support young carers is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.4 All secondary schools and most primary schools have a named member of staff with lead responsibility for young carers. This member of staff acts as a point of contact for young carers, champions their needs and engages with specialist services to review and improve the provision to meet the needs of young carers. They will also identify how their school can raise the awareness of young carers' needs through various methods including staff and governor training. The local authority has a register of the school leads.
- 2.5 Schools are supported to evaluate their provision for young carers using available toolkits. Schools use the 'Young Carers in Schools Programme: Beyond the Basics' to evaluate their support. The programme supports the development of

schools to better, 'Understand, Inform, Identify, Listen and Support' young carers. All eight secondary schools within the Vale are working to implement the Young Carers in Schools Programme and this has improved school-based support available for young carers. The next stage is to raise awareness in the primary schools.

- 2.6** There are 5 standards as part of the programme. In St Cyres Comprehensive School, the impact of the programme has led to many improvements across the school community. This is evident in the improvement in attainment and attendance. Here is an overview of what is involved in each standard in this school.
- 2.7** Standard 1: The school demonstrates an understanding of the needs of young carers. There are assigned staff members with responsibility for understanding and addressing young carers' needs. The school has a system in place to monitor young carers' attendance and attainment, e.g. flagging identified young carers on an internal management system. The Young Carers' School Operational Lead has established a working group of school staff to support the needs of young carers. This includes established links with School Nurses and local young carers' services. The operational lead for young carers and the Heads of Year have termly meetings young carers are a rolling agenda item. There are daily conversations between Heads of Year and form tutors to support the needs of young carers. The staff understand the need to ensure that students have an adult that they can trust.
- 2.8** Standard 2: The school demonstrates an awareness by sharing knowledge about disability, illness and young carers throughout the school. The school offers students access to google classroom which has support guides around the following: Self harm; Self-help guides; Anxiety; Exam anxiety; Anger; Sleep problems; Bereavement; Eating issues; Sexual health, (a lot of the resources have been taken from Young Minds and Mood Juice). There are some resources available too.
- 2.9** Standard 3: Young carers are identified within the school. Teachers and school staff are trained to recognise young carers including those who may be hidden. The school provides staff with regular training about young carer awareness, identification, stigmatised illness and support provision. Staff are through SIMs data of any additional information needed around the young carer. Staff are trained to identify behaviours and changes in students. The impact of this training is evaluated and enables ongoing learning. 6th formers are receiving well-being training, to ensure the training includes information for young carers. The school gives all parents information regarding young carer issues and the support that is available to young carers and their families. A letter has been sent to parents and some young carers have been identified through this process.
- 2.10** Standard 4: Young carers in the school are listened to, consulted with and given time and space to talk if they need to. School staff, including pastoral support

staff and teachers, have received specific training about the issues affecting young carers and are available for young carers to talk to and are able to signpost them to further information. There is an email address which is monitored daily where the young carers can contact the operational lead. There are drop-ins on Mondays for young carers. The Wellbeing area has an open door policy and support is available at all times.

- 2.11** Standard 5: Young carers are supported within the school by being signposted to other resources and services outside the school. There are support systems from CAMHS and the well-being service for 2 days a week. The School Health Nurse is available on a Monday for the students to access: Switched on drugs service; Elevate the can do project (this is around self-esteem in year 7); Counsellors are in 2 days a week; First aid PSE Programme; NSPCC for healthy relationships; Social Services.
- 2.12** The 5 standards of the programme are RAG-rated and schools use the tool to self-evaluate their provision for young carers. The programme is effective in secondary schools and developing in primary schools. There are assigned staff members with responsibility for understanding and addressing young carers' needs. Schools raise awareness by sharing knowledge about disability, illness and young carers throughout the school. Schools are more confident and provide staff with regular training to raise the awareness around identification, stigmatised illness and available support. The impact of this training is evaluated and enables ongoing learning for staff and school governors. In schools, young carers are listened to, consulted with and given time and space to talk if they need to. This can be in the form of a weekly drop in for young carers and a well-being area having an open door policy. Young carers are supported within school and signposted to other resources and services outside the school. Schools have established links with other organisations in the local community, including the Young Carers Service at the YMCA. The schools are linking with local services which are available to support students, including the well-being service, counselling substance misuse support and the school nurse.
- 2.13** All secondary schools and most primary schools are good at monitoring the attainment and attendance of young carers. Primary schools have recorded very small numbers of young carers. One primary school has 2 young carers. The attendance for one pupil in year 3 is 99% and this pupil attained Foundation Phase Outcome 6 across the curriculum at end of Year 2 which is above expected levels. This pupil also attained above average scores in the Welsh National Tests. The attendance of the other young carer in Year 6 is 93.5% and this is due to an agreed family holiday in term time. This pupil consistently attains in line with ability and in line with expected average in Welsh National Tests. Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan have also recorded small numbers of young carers. St Cyres has one of the highest numbers of young carers with 10 recorded. As a school, they are proactive in terms of raising staff awareness. At St Cyres, 60% (6) of the carers are in key stage 3 and 40% (4) in key stage 4. Last

year, 90% of young carers in St Cyres achieved in line with their ability; at key stage 4, 3 out of four pupils achieved expected or above levels of attainment

- 2.14 One pupil in key stage 4, who has medical needs, attained in line with her ability. 10% (1) have medical needs which resulted in this pupil receiving education other than at school (EOTAS).
- 2.15 Very few young carers are recorded as school action or school action plus. 60% of the young carers at St Cyres have more than 90% attendance. The attendance of the majority of the young carers at St Cyres is good, however it ranges from 27% to 96%. The school has plans in place to increase the overall attendance of their young carers.
- 2.16 In addition to the aforementioned pupils, there are a further four pupils who are young carers attending sixth form.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The Partnership is committed to ensuring that carers are recognised within our communities and that every step is taken to ensure that the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan region is an environment that supports the highest quality of life both for those providing and in receipt of care.
- 3.2 Improving standards of education and provision is important to us and we endeavour to ensure that support is quality assured through regular meetings with schools. The process ensures we monitor the progress of learners. Monitoring is undertaken to make certain that learners are receiving value for money and that provision has a positive impact on young people's education and wellbeing.
- 3.3 We work collaboratively with internal and external partners including Social Services, the Regional Steering Group and schools to demonstrate achievements and identify risks to help meet the wellbeing objective. These partners are colleagues in education, Health, Carers Trust, and the Youth Service.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1 There are no financial considerations resulting from this Report.

Employment

4.2 There are no employment implications to consider.

Legal (Including Equalities)

4.3 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced new rights and entitlements for carers in Wales. It introduced a broader definition of a carer and placed stronger duties on local authorities to identify, assess and support carers.

4.4 Included in the Act is the continuation of the requirement on the NHS and Local Authorities in Wales to co-operate in relation to the delivery of preventative services, unless this is incompatible with their own duties. It also requires regional partnerships to ensure information, advice and assistance is offered across the region in a manner which is accessible and suits the needs of their population.

4.5 The United Nations Convention and the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) have relevance to a child as young carer. Article 3 includes the provision that in all actions concerning children by public or private social welfare institutions, the best interests of the child should be of primary consideration. Article 12 makes provision for ensuring that the child's views are expressed freely and given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. There are other Articles which relate to the rights of the child.

5. Background Papers

None.

Case Study of How Schools Support Young Carers

Current Services and Support for Young Carers in Schools

Currently, in 25 primary and secondary schools, 102 young carers have been identified. Schools identify young carers on their SIMS system and a local authority register is compiled. Schools are able to track and monitor the progress and outcomes for young carers as they currently do for other groups of vulnerable learners on their SIMS system.

All secondary schools have a named member of staff with lead responsibility for young carers who acts as a point of contact for young carers and champions their needs. This is the case in most primary schools. The local authority have a register of the school leads.

The named members of staff identify how their school raises the awareness of young carers' needs, through various methods including staff and governor training. Schools engage with specialist services to review and improve their provision to meet the needs of young carers. Schools are supported to evaluate their provision for young carers using available toolkits.

The schools use the 'Young Carers in Schools Programme: Beyond the Basics' to evaluate their support. The programme supports the development of schools to better, 'Understand, Inform, Identify, Listen and Support' young carers. All eight secondary schools within the Vale are working to implement the Young Carers in Schools Programme and this has improved school based support available for young carers.

The programme is rag rated and schools use the tool to self-evaluate their provision for young carers. There are many good outcomes of the programme evident in secondary schools. There are assigned staff members with responsibility for understanding and addressing young carers' needs. Schools raise awareness by sharing knowledge about disability, illness and young carers throughout the school. Young carers are being identified within schools. Schools are more confident because they provide staff with regular training about young carer awareness, identification, stigmatised illness and support provision. The impact of this training is evaluated and enables ongoing learning. In school, young carers are listened to, consulted with and given time and space to talk if they need to. This can be in the form of weekly drop in for young carers and a well-being area having an open door policy. Young carers are supported within school and signposted to other resources and services outside the school. Schools have established links with other organisations in the local community, including the Young Carers Service at the YMCA. The schools are linking with local services which are available to support students, including the well-being service, counselling substance misuse support and the school nurse.

The school population in of young carers residing in the Vale in January 2020 is as follows:

1. Albert Primary School 3
2. Bishop of Llandaff C/W High School 1

3.	Cadoxton Primary School	7	
4.	Cowbridge Comprehensive School	3	
5.	Evenlode Primary School	1	
6.	High Street Primary School	1	
7.	Holton Primary School	2	
8.	Llantwit Major High School	16	
9.	Palmerston Primary School	2	
10.	Pencoedtre High School	5	
11.	Romilly Primary School	3	
12.	St Athan Primary School	1	
13.	St Cyres Comprehensive School	10	
14.	St Illtyd Primary School	1	
15.	St Joseph's RC Primary School	1	
16.	St Richard Gwyn RC High School	4	
17.	Stanwell Comprehensive School	3	
18.	Sully Primary School	3	
19.	Victoria Primary School	1	
20.	Whitmore High School	3	
21.	Y Daith	1	
22.	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	25	
23.	Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	1	
24.	Ysgol Sant Baruc	2	
25.	Ysgol Y Deri	2	

Total 102

All secondary schools and most primary schools good at monitoring the attainment and attendance of young carers.

The primary schools have recorded very small numbers of young carers. In one of the primary schools, 57% of the young carers are achieving in line with their ability, according to end of year national test scores. The remaining 43% are too young to sit the end of year tests. Very few young carers are recorded as school action or school action plus. 57% of the young carers in this school have more than 96% attendance. The attendance of young carers in this primary school is good and it ranges from 91% to 100% .

The secondary schools have also recorded small numbers of young carers. In one of the secondary schools, 90% of young carers are achieving in line with their ability. 10% have medical needs which resulted in them receiving EOTAS. In this school, they have one of the highest numbers of young carers and the school is proactive in terms of raising awareness. 60% of the carers are in key stage 3 and 40% in key stage 4. Very few young carers are recorded as school action or school action plus. 60% of the young carers in this school have more than 90% attendance. The attendance of young carers in this secondary school is good and it ranges from 17% to 95%. The school have plans in place to increase the attendance of their young carers.