

INFORMATION FOR REFERRERS

Thank you for contacting the Signpost Young Carers Service. Enclosed is our referral form, please read the following information as it may help you when making a referral.

To meet our criteria, children and young people must meet our definition of a young carer. Please fill in the referral form as comprehensively as possible. We need to know about the young person's caring responsibilities ("caring" can mean physical caring, emotional support or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well being) as well as the impact those responsibilities have upon at least one of the following, their

Physical/mental health
Education
Emotional and Behavioural Development
Identity
Family and Social/Peer relationships

Lots of children and young people are affected by a family member's disability, illness or substance misuse problem, but not all of them are young carers.

Our Definition

"Young Carers are children and young people (**BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 18**) who provide care to another family member who has a physical illness/disability; mental ill health; sensory disability or has a problematic use of drugs or alcohol.

The level of care they provide would usually be undertaken by an adult and as a result of this has significant impact on their normal childhood.

Sibling Carers:

Signpost Young Carers assess sibling carers differently to children caring for a parent. Due to the high number of referrals we receive for siblings they must be 'severely affected' by their brother or sisters disability.

We assess under the following categories.

Does the sibling experience?

Regular sleep disturbance (e.g. due to sharing a room with a disabled sibling)

Violence (e.g. does their sibling target them when they are angry or frustrated)

Little or no time with their parent/s

Difficulty in accessing social activities due to the care needs of their sibling

Problems with completing homework, e.g. they have no space or quiet time to do it in

Problems at school, e.g. difficulty in making friends, concentrating in class etc

Feelings of anger, anxiety or other emotional issues

Children and young people will NOT BE ELIGIBLE if:

- Caring 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 care providers but caring does not significantly impact on their health or development
- They must be at least 6 years of age
- They must live in the Stockport borough

MAKING FAIR DECISIONS ABOUT HELPING YOUNG CARERS

We try to make sure that every young carer we support is offered a service that is in proportion to their needs.

We will never make decisions about how much support to give someone based on the person's culture, religion, race, gender, sexual orientation or on where they live within our catchment area.

We feel it is very important to make sure we carry on supporting young people we have offered our services to. This means that sometimes we have to ask new young carers to wait for our service. When we have to choose which new young carers to support first, and which ones may have to wait a little longer, we make that decision after assessing the factors below:

- What difference does being a young carer make to the young person's life?
- How serious is the condition of the person they are looking after?
- How long has the young person been on our waiting list?
- Are there other services that can help the young person?
- Do we have a service or activities that the young person is likely to find helpful?

Every young carer who is accepted for a service will have their circumstances and service package reviewed every 6 months. We aim to reduce the caring role of the young person and therefore some young people may only need our service for a short period of time.

OUR BREAKS AND ACTIVITIES

We have more young carers than we have spaces for our breaks and activities, so sometimes we have to choose who we offer breaks to. We usually give first choice to young carers who are in one or more of these groups:

- Young carers who have not received a break in the past 12 months.
- Young carers who have recently suffered a traumatic life change or are very vulnerable at the moment
- Young carers who have the heaviest burden of caring responsibilities
- Families who are not likely to be able to have a holiday in the near future
- Young carers who will get the most out of the break or activity

WE HAVE LIMITED RESOURCES

We are a charity and how much we can do to help people is sometimes limited by the amount of money we have. Sometimes we are unable to provide transport for people in remote areas.

If you wish to contact us please do not hesitate to call 0161 947 4690 or write to

Signpost Young Carers
Heatons Centre
Thornfield Road
Heaton Moor
Stockport
SK4 3LD

Once we receive your referral and we have the necessary information we will contact the family to arrange a home visit. We see the parent first to get their perspective on the situation and once we have obtained permission from them we will make arrangements to see the young person/s. If the referral is appropriate and both the parent and young person are in agreement we will offer a service as soon as we possibly can.

SIGNPOST STOCKPORT YOUNG CARERS REFERRAL FORM

(NOTE TO REFERRERS: Please advise families that a referral to Young Carers doesn't guarantee a service. All families will be assessed using the agencies criteria).

Referee: _____ Position: _____

Agency: _____ Contact No: _____

Address: _____ Referral Date: _____

Other agencies involved (with contact details if known)

Has a CAF been completed – if yes please send a copy with the referral form.

Is the young carer involved in the Team Around the Child process?

If yes - name of lead practitioner, agency and contact number

School (where young carer attends)

Person/s Referred: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____ Tel No: _____

_____ E-Mail _____

Family Details:

First Name	Last Name	Relationship to Young Carer



Please fill in the following questions as comprehensively as possible so as to help Signpost in giving a quick and effective service. If we do not have full details we will contact you by telephone to complete the information.



In what capacity are you involved with the person being referred?

Who is the young person caring for and what is their relationship?

Please give details of the illness/disability of the person cared for.

What are the young carers main responsibilities (State individual caring tasks)? Please give as much information regarding their caring role and how it impacts on their life. This will help us determine if it is an appropriate referral and if it meets our criteria.

Has the referral been discussed with the family? If 'NO' please explain why or if 'YES' please state if they have given their consent. We will not contact the family without their consent.

In your own words, in what ways do you see Signpost meeting the Young Carers needs?



Does the Young Carer have any special needs?
(e.g. Allergies, Dietary Requirements, Prescribed Medication, Behaviour, Disability)

Are there any risk factors that we need to consider when visiting the family due to the fact we sometimes visit alone. Are there any safeguarding concerns we need to be aware of?

Any other information:

Please State:

Families Ethnicity _____

Families First Language _____

Please identify what methods of communication will be acceptable to the family and any special needs that require consideration:

	Person Being Cared For	Young Persons
Home Visit		
Telephone		
Letter		
Large print		
Standard Print		
Braille		
Interpret		
Sign Language		
First Language		
Other		

Signed _____

Date _____

Thank you for your co-operation



Please fax to 0161 947 4699