

Eligibility Criteria for Bristol & South Glos Young Carers

Please read through these guidelines before making a referral. Demands for our service exceed our capacity, and we operate a waiting list. We understand the complicated dynamics of some families, so please feel free to contact us if you are unsure whether or not a referral is appropriate.

Definition of a young carer:

Young carers are children and young people aged 18 and under who provide care to someone in their family who has a disability, a long term illness, or is affected by mental ill health or substance misuse. Young carers have to take on caring responsibilities, both practical and emotional, that would normally be expected of an adult.

Eligibility criteria:

To meet eligibility for a service, children and young people must meet our definition of a young carer. The service is funded to work with young carers aged **8-18**, and we are unable accept referrals for young carers outside this age bracket. We advise agencies to complete a CAF or contact CYPS for young carers aged 7 and under who are significantly affected by caring responsibilities.

At referral stage you will be asked to identify the caring responsibilities (practical and/or emotional) undertaken by the child or young person as well as the impact those responsibilities are having upon on the following:

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

In cases where either of these points are unclear i.e. caring responsibilities or impact on the child or young person, you will be asked to clarify (this can cause delays in processing the referral). The level of impact this is having on the child or young person will influence the priority of need, thus influencing the speed at which we provide an assessment.

Children and young people may not be eligible if:

- 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 helping to support a primary adult carer with care tasks i.e. they are a minimal secondary carer
- They are living with a family member who is ill, disabled or misusing substances but are not providing care for that person, for themselves or for siblings.
- 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.

Referral process:

Following a referral, we will inform the family that we have received a referral for them. The referral will be prioritised based on need and added to the waiting list until we are able to visit the family. If it has been some time since the referral has been made, we may contact the referrer before arranging the home visit, to check if the situation has changed significantly. At the home visit we will complete an assessment and will inform the family and the referrer whether we are able to offer a service as soon as possible.

Reviews:

If the child or young person meets our criteria, we will offer them a tiered level service which meets their needs, which can include access to group activities, one-to-one and family support. This will be reviewed after one year and due to demand, we cannot guarantee that the service will continue if their circumstances change, likewise they may require an increased level of support. Referrers will not automatically be informed of the outcome of these reviews.

To contact a member of the Young Carers team, please call 0117 939 2562 or email youngc@carerssupportcentre.org.uk