

# Developing a school lead for young carers and their families

*"Without the support of my teachers, I wouldn't have continued my academic career in the way that I have ...and I really do thank them for helping me get my university place to carry on the dream that I had for my career without letting it get affected by my caring role."*

## Who is this chapter for?

- School lead or school staff interested in becoming/establishing a school lead within your school
- A small team supporting the school lead
- School leadership team

## This chapter will support schools to:

- establish an appropriate school lead with agreed roles and responsibilities.
- establish an appropriate support team, where possible, to work alongside the school lead.
- share good practice with schools leads based in other schools.

## Synopsis

It is recommended that each school assigns a school lead, with specific duties and responsibilities to support young carers in school more effectively. The aim of the school lead is to develop a framework of support which is embedded within the whole school.

## Helping your school to develop best practice

*Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk* advises schools in England that young carers are at particular risk and that a member of staff should be designated to have particular concern for them.<sup>1</sup>

More recently, in a *Model Memorandum of Understanding* on working together to support young carers developed by the ADASS and ADCS<sup>2</sup>, schools are encouraged to "have a named staff member with lead responsibility for young carers and to recognise this role within continuing professional development".

*Young carers, parents and their families: Key Principles of Practice* also recommends that schools and colleges have a named member of staff who is responsible for carers to aid early



identification and intervention. The role should be accountable for promoting and coordinating the support needed, informing and working with governors and the school leadership team and liaising with other agencies.

In quantifying the post, your school may want to consider allocating an additional Teacher Learning Responsibility (TLR) point to this role.

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and The Children's Society have, together, developed an exemplar job description for a school lead for young carers and their families using government statutory guidance and advice, current good practice in schools and young carers "Top Ten Tips for Schools".<sup>3</sup> The job description will help your school to identify a member of staff who is best suited to this position and serve as a useful tool to assess current school practice with young carers and implement a whole-school and curriculum approach. An exemplar job description can be found in the resources listed below.

## Other chapters to help you understand this topic

- 9 A model for setting up a framework of support
- 11 School leadership teams
- 12 Developing a school policy for young carers and their families

## Key resources

### → School Lead for Young Carers and their Families: An exemplar job description

Developed by The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and The Children's Society.

[www.youngcarer.com/pdfs/School%20Lead%20Job%20Desc%203rd.pdf](http://www.youngcarer.com/pdfs/School%20Lead%20Job%20Desc%203rd.pdf)

### → Local Authority Toolkit

Funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and have designed a range of tools to aid local authorities in creating protocols and strategies to meet Every Child Matters Outcomes for young carers and their families.

[www.youngcarer.com/showPage.php?file=200813131330.htm](http://www.youngcarer.com/showPage.php?file=200813131330.htm)

### → Professionals website

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers' dedicated website professionals who work with adult and young carers in health, education or and social care:

[www.carers.org/professionals](http://www.carers.org/professionals)

<sup>1</sup>DCSF Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk: <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/154426>

<sup>2</sup>Working together to support young carers: A model local memorandum of understanding between statutory directors for children's services and adult social services. (2009). Department of Children, Schools and Families: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00678/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00678/)

<sup>3</sup>Young Carers Festival 2006, Young Carers give Top Ten Tips for Schools', in 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.*