Sandwell Young Carers

is a registered charity set up in 1994 to identify and support children and young people living in Sandwell, aged 5-18 years, whose health, education & social lives have been affected as a result of caring for a dependent family member.

Charity Registration Number 1081084
Young Carers are children and young people under the age of 18, whose lives are restricted by the need to take responsibility for a person who is either; chronically ill, has a disability, is experiencing mental distress, is affected by alcohol and/or substances misuse or is elderly or infirm. Young carers may be caring for a family member who experiences more than one of these illnesses.
Young Carers will be caring for someone who experiences the following conditions:

- Learning disability
- Physical and/or Sensory Impairment
- Mental health
- Elderly and Infirm
- HIV/AIDS
- Drug Misuse
- Alcohol Misuse
- Disabled sibling
- Terminal Illness

Young carers may be caring for someone who experiences more than one of these illnesses.
Young Carers will be caring for a dependent family member, this could be their:

- Mother
- Father
- Brother
- Sister
- Grandparent
- Aunt
- Etc

Young Carers can be primary or secondary carers. This is determined by the family make up.

Young Carers can be caring for more than one family member.
Young carers will be responsible for carrying out the following tasks:

**Domestic Chores**
Inclusive of cleaning, cooking, shopping, ironing.

**Domiciliary Tasks (personal hygiene)**
Inclusive of washing, dressing, toileting

**Family Responsibilities**
Inclusive of money management, caring for siblings

**Medical Care**
Inclusive of administering medication, injections, ventilators

**Emotional Support**
Often for the whole family as well as the ‘cared for’
The effects. Young Carers lives are affected in 3 main areas;

Health

• Tiredness, lack of concentration, easily distracted
• Emotional distress
• Stress on bones (which are not yet formed)
• Muscle pull (due to heavy lifting of the ‘cared for’, shopping, furniture)
• Back injury
• Stressed

A general feeling of being unwell (headaches, feeling sick, anxious)
The effects. Young carers lives are affected in 3 main areas;

Education

- Persistently late for school
- Often leave at lunch or before school finishes
- High Absenteeism
- Poor concentration through tiredness and worry
- Under achievement and/or deteriorating performance
- Homework difficulties
- Lack of participation in after school events
- Withdrawn and isolated

Young Carers are often the victim of bullying as they are seen as different; more mature, limited social skills, low self esteem, secretive.
The effects. Young carers lives are affected in 3 main areas;

Social

- Difficulty forming and sustaining friendships
- Lack of participation in after school activities
- Difficulty in taking part in social events with peers
- Apprehensive in confiding in peers for fear of ridicule
- False Maturity
- Unacceptable patterns of behaviour

Young carers can often be seen as unreliable by peers as they will cancel arrangements last minute due to their caring role, or need to get home early to tend to the ‘cared for’.
Sandwell Statistics

• The Census 2001 stated there were 610 young carers in Sandwell.

• According to Sparrowhawk Consultants Ltd report ‘The Forgotten Children’ (Oct 08) commissioned by Sandwell Children & Young People Joint Commissioning Team there are 2172 Young Carers living in Sandwell.

• Sandwell Young Carers are currently contracted to support 90 young carers (less than 5% of those estimated in the Forgotten Children Report).

• It is estimated by Crossroads Caring for Carers and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers report ‘Economic Evaluation of Young Carers’ Intervention’(Nov 08) that Young Carers Projects save the exchequer £6.72 for every pound spent.
Sandwell Young Carers

Who are We?

• Assessment & Referral Team
• Short Breaks
• Support Work
• Business and Performance
Assessment & Referral

- Waiting List Management
- Carry out all Initial Assessments
- Responsible for carrying out Common Assessment Framework
- Supervision of Social Work Student Placements
- Deliver Awareness Raising
Short Breaks

• Under 12’s Saturday Play Club
• 11-13 Wednesday Youth Club
• 14-18 Thursday Youth Club
• Workshops (Youth Issue based)
• Offsite Day Trips
• Residential Breaks
• Study Support Session
• Transport to and from activities
Support Work

One To One Sessions
Home visits/review assessments
Risk Assessments & care packages
Onsite support sessions

Advocacy/Liaison
Family Support
Multi-agency Meetings

Group Work
Circle time
Group Support
Accreditation
Personal Development Workshops
Illness/disability Information group

Networking/Awareness Raising
Partnership Liaison
Education Liaison
Business & Performance

This area ensures the overall administration and management of the Sandwell Young Carers in line with policies and procedures, aims and objectives and legislative law.

• Raising Awareness
• Promotion and Quality Development
• Monitoring and Evaluation
• Strategic Planning
• Financial matters; auditing and fundraising
• Recruitment and Training of Staff
• Health and Safety
The organisation is managed by a team of 11 dedicated and experienced volunteers which form the Board of Directors.

The day to day activities take place as a result of a paid and voluntary team made up of:

7 full-time
1 part-time
13 sessional workers and 6 volunteers.

3 ex-members of the organisation have returned to join the team of paid and voluntary staff. They felt that they wanted to give something back to a service that they got so much from during their years as a young carer.
Organisational Structure

Board of Directors

Chief Executive Officer

Support Work Manager (ages 14-18s)

Short Breaks Manager

Volunteers

Sessional Transport Escorts

Sessional Play Leaders

Sessional Youth Leaders

Support Work Co-ordinator (ages 5-11s)

Support Work Co-ordinator (ages 11-13s)

Finance Administrator

IT Volunteer

Assessment & Referral Co-ordinator

Social Work Student placements

Administration Manager
Achievements

**Ofsted Inspection**
Graded as outstanding in the following areas; helping children to be healthy, Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe, helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do, helping children make a positive contribution.

**Early Years Award**
Awarded Sandwell’s Early Years Out of School Award for Outstanding Practice and Creativity in 2008 and 2009, following nominations from members and parents.

**The Service Review**
Outcome of the evaluation report led by young carers launched in October 2008.

**The Study Support Unit**
Renovation and opening of a study support unit for young carers.

**Satellite Centre for Approved Centre of Learning**
Funding secured in 2009 has enabled SYC to support young carers with acquiring nationally recognised qualifications.

**The first Young Carers Centre in the Country**
In 1998 Sandwell Young Carers secured funds to purchase and renovate its own building which became the first Young Carers Centre in the country.
The Sandwell Young Carers Centre

The Old Vicarage
44 Bratt Street
West Bromwich
B71 3NP

0121 525 7667

www.sandwellyc.org.uk
Thank you for your interest in Sandwell Young Carers

Any Questions?...

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