

Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email: victoria.cusworth@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library

Our ref
VC/LH

Please Contact
Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Direct Line
07824895314

3rd August 2022

Councillor Jill Thompson
Elected Member

Via email: jill.thompson@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Thompson

Council Meeting – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the question you raised at Council on 20th July as part of the Scrutiny spotlight review on young carers as follows:

What was the plan to get the children on the waiting list the support they needed as quickly as possible and if additional funding was required to ensure that all young carers received the right care at the right time, would that be made available now?

Covid led to increased waiting times for children to receive a service as the interventions offered to the open cases took significantly longer to complete and 25 children were on the waiting list at the end of Q4. All children on the waiting list are contacted and triaged to ensure their needs are understood.

Wellbeing packs are now delivered to all children when the referral is accepted. These packs contain a range of helpful resources for children and are designed to support the emotional wellbeing of the child whilst they await individual support and intervention from the team.

Weekly on-line support groups are being offered to the children awaiting their support to commence. There are two groups, one for older and one for younger children. These sessions are held early evening and serve as an opportunity for the child to begin initial engagement with the practitioners and the chance to cover relevant topics such as how they are coping overall, any common school issues and to share some social time on-line with other young carers. Younger children are also engaging in some joint on-line games within the sessions, but the older children are understandably not wanting this within their sessions. The groups are open to all with no requirement to register in advance so children and young people can choose if and when they attend. Some children and young people attend consistently whilst others attend only when they feel it would be helpful to them.

Additional funding was provided to the young carers service to support young carers to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and increase capacity to deliver group work to provide support to children on the waiting list.

The capacity within the team was increased with the additional funding. A new team member started in November, and she has begun casework with children and families. This additional casework capacity has been reflected in the caseload figures.

In Q4 21/22 the Young Carers Service worked with 23 children and reported 45 open cases. In Q1 22/23 the Young Carers service worked with 58 children and reported 54 open cases.

I hope you find this information useful, but if you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Cusworth', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People