

## Agenda Item 9

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date: **16 June 2008**

By: **Director of Law and Personnel**

Title of report: **Progress on implementation of recommendations of Children's Services' review of young carers.**

Purpose of report: **To consider progress on implementation of recommendations from East Sussex County Council's young carers' review.**

---

### RECOMMENDATIONS

HOSC is recommended to:

- 1) **Check whether satisfactory progress has been made since November 2006 by the Young Carers Strategy Group.**
  - 2) **Check on the status of revision of the joint protocols between Adult Services and Children's Services.**
  - 3) **Consider if this monitoring project can be drawn to a close.**
- 

### 1. Background

1.1 Children's Services undertook a review of young carers in East Sussex and presented a development and improvement plan to the East Sussex County Council Children's Social Care Management Team on 25 May 2006. This review complemented HOSC carers' review which was completed in April 2005. The 12 month monitoring report of the latter review was considered at HOSC on 23 June 2006 and progress on recommendations noted.

1.2 In March 2007, John Tovey, Joint Head, Children's Services Commissioning Unit, Sandy Thomas, Policy and Planning Manager for Disabled Children, Liz Fenton, Chief Executive, Care for the Carers, Mary Law, Young Persons' Services Manager, Care for the Carers updated HOSC in regard to the outcomes of the review of young carers. (Both John and Sandy are no longer with the County Council.) The Committee was advised that:

- Care for the Carers support the direction of travel set out in the young carers' development and improvement plan. The organisation would like to provide a wider ranging service to all young carers but resources are limited which means it can only work with around 120 young carers identified as those most in need. These young carers are often in the 'hard to reach' category and there is a need for more creativity in overcoming this.
- Schools are key in helping identify young carers in need. Schools receive guidance on what behaviour to look for. The Common Assessment Framework will be rolled out in April 2007 and this should help identify pupils with caring responsibilities. There is also Children's Index – the information

sharing system which allows organisations to see who else is working with a child.

- Recently, hospitals have adopted a new protocol which means they now have to look much more widely at a patient's needs. This includes any carer involvement. There is also an awareness raising programme underway with GPs.
- The number of young carers might be higher than the estimates which are based on the 2001 census figures. Indeed, young carers sometimes do not see themselves as carers.
- A Young Carers Strategy Group is being set up to take forward the work. This group includes school representation.
- Joint protocols between Adult's Services and Children's Services would benefit from complete revision. There is a need for a seamless service.

1.3 The Committee endorsed the satisfactory progress on implementation of recommendations of Children's Services' review of young carers. The Committee was enormously encouraged to see the issues being addressed.

1.4 The Committee also resolved to continue to monitor progress and scheduled to receive an update report in November 2007. However, this item was postponed because of Fit for the Future activities.

## **2. Updating HOSC in regard to progress since March 2007**

2.1 Richard Baldwin, Operations Manager, Integrated Services (West), Children's Services and Mark Braddock, Care for the Carers will update HOSC in regard to progress on development of services for young carers which stemmed from the implementation of Children's Services' review of young carers carried out in May 2006.

2.2 A paper outlining key points is attached as appendix 1. (to be confirmed)

ANDREW OGDEN  
Director of Law and Personnel

Contact Officer:  
Claire Lee, Scrutiny Lead Officer  
Tel: 01273 481327  
claire.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk