Legislation, policy and service frameworks supporting adolescent young carers

European Parliament Informal Carers Interest Group

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Programme

1. Welcome
2. Work package 2 – Main goal
3. Methodology
4. Key legislative and policy findings
5. Future steps to progress
6. Questions and discussion
1. Welcome
Main goal: To analyse the development and implementation of legislation and policy addressing AYCs in six countries: Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, UK and Switzerland.

Specific aims: To examine what legal provisions and policy exist that provide protection for young carers; To explore how such provisions are enacted in the ‘real’ world.
3. Methodology

The methodology included:

1. Preliminary examination: different legislation / policy responses supporting AYCs (Internet search)

2. 25 interviews with experts

3. Case study analysis

4. Feedback and input from AYCs
4. Key legislative and policy findings

Main legislative findings: Comparison of different country responses

- Only UK:
  - Legislation *specifically* recognising children’s caring roles
  - *Specific definition*

- Sweden - between the specific/non-specific divide

- Recognition of AYCs reliant upon *‘non-specific legislation’* such as:
  - *Education, health* and *social care* legislation.

- Policy & Service frameworks *specifically* targeting (adolescent) young carers reported in Switzerland, Italy, and in the UK.
4. Key legislative and policy findings

How does legislation and policy translate into practice?

• Translation into practice found to be variable

• **Translation into practice relates to:**
  o Existence of implementation guidelines and regulations
  o Collaboration between services
  o Culture of local authorities
  o Type of support offered by legislation
  o Sufficient financial support

• AYCs falling through the gaps
4. Key legislative and policy findings

How were changes in legislation and policy achieved?

- **Stakeholder involvement:**
  - Ministries
  - Family associations
  - Private and state organisations
  - Young people and carers

- **Key drivers:**
  - Academics conducting research and partnerships with voluntary sector
  - Key champions in Government
  - Consultation with young people
  - EU promotion of young people as target group (EU Youth Strategy)
  - High workload of Social Workers / Analysis of other European legislation/policy

- The changes in legislation: associated with **changes in paradigms**.
4. Key legislative and policy findings

Involvement of (Adolescent) Young Carers

Enactment of legal provisions and policy frameworks:

- Some laws **not working well** in practice

- AYCs **not offered any kind of support / roles not considered** by health professionals

- **Lack of information** about their rights / support opportunities

- The **school** environment should be more supportive
4. Key legislative and policy findings
Involvement of (Adolescent) Young Carers

Future goals and hopes:

• Support for role of parents
• Participation of AYCs/families in decision-making processes
• Importance of awareness raising
• National legislation or strategy or adapt existing legislation
• Definition of young carers needed
• Need for increased support, especially in schools
• Emotional support should be included
5. Future steps to progress

**ACTION**: AYCs recognised as important target group for policy makers

**ACTION**: Further data and awareness and recognition of AYCs is needed

**ACTION**: Definition of AYCs needed

**ACTION**: *Extend existing legislation and policy – to include AYCs*

**ACTION**: Prevention and early interventions is important

**ACTION**: More participation/inclusion of AYCs

**ACTION**: Different stakeholders should be involved

**ACTION**: “Spread the word”
6. Questions and discussion
Thank you very much for your attention.
Stay in contact!

Further information
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