Young Carers in Schools

Holly-Rae Smith, Education Equality Manager, Carers Trust
- Background info
- What’s YCiS?
- Impact so far
- Ambassador programme
- Going Further, Going Higher
- Future of the programme
Young Carers in UK

Across the UK, as many as 1 in 5 children and young people are young carers.

23% of young carers felt their caring role had stopped them making friends.

1 in 3 young carers say their caring role makes them feel stressed.

48 the average number of school days missed or cut short as a result of a young person’s caring role.

2 in 3 young carers have been bullied in school.
What’s YCiS?

- Young Carers in Schools
- Guidance for schools in how to identify and support young carers to achieve their full potential at school
- Started in 2015 with The Children’s Society
- TCS administer an award for schools, Carers Trust maintain a toolkit for schools to use
YCiS materials

🌟 Baseline review
🌟 Step by step guides
  - School staff
  - Support workers
  - NQTs
🌟 Webinars
🌟 Termly newsletters to schools
🌟 Award administered by The Children’s Society
🌟 Support from Carers Trust
The impact of YCiS

- More young carers identified in schools - often a surprise to the school!
- 94% of schools said staff were more likely to know what to do if they identified a young carer
- 94% had a better understanding of the support required for them
- Young carers were demonstrating increased wellbeing (85%), happiness (83%) and confidence (83%)
- 73% of schools reported young carers’ classroom engagement had improved
- 72% thought their motivation to learn had improved
- 63% reported improvements in young carers’ achievements
- 70 local authorities attended a conference launching the pack in 2018
- All Party Parliamentary Group
- Excellent feedback about tools
Limitations of YCiS

- Ofsted
- It’s too big!
- Teachers increasingly stretched for time and resource
- Scaling up consistently across England
- Differences across nations
- Monitoring
Expanding YCiS: Ambassador programme

150 Ambassadors trained across five areas (Sunderland, Blackpool, Northampton, Hertfordshire, Barking and Dagenham)

Aims:
- Sustainable,
- agile approach,
- empowering volunteers,
- closer to schools,
- encourage schools to start YCiS

Outcomes: Amazing results for the confidence of volunteers
Case study

Abby* has helped to deliver two assemblies and managed to convince her school to participate in Young Carers Awareness Day. The school are really proud of her and how far she has come.

The support has also meant that Abby has been able to gain confidence to talk to staff at school and develop further positive relationships with the YC support staff, meaning she has been able to speak out about what is going on at home and how she is feeling emotionally. Due to this 1:1 has been arranged and due to start in the coming weeks.

*name changed

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Going Further, Going Higher

- Taking Ambassador model from YCiS
- Creating an ambition pathway for young people
- 20 Ambassadors over four areas (Newcastle, Scarborough and Ryedale, Solihull and Essex)
- More autonomy for Ambassadors
- Peer support between programmes
Future of the Education Equality Programme

Education is a key opportunity to identify and support young carers

Mapping exercise with The Children’s Society

Determine how YCiS is used across the UK
- What’s useful?
- What’s not?
- What’s missing?
Thank you

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