

Education, Children and Families Committee

10:00am, Tuesday, 12 October 2021

Award of Contract for Young Carer Services

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note progress with the implementation of additional support for Young Carers, as part of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.
 - 1.1.2 Note the positive recognition of progress with implementing Young Carer supports indicated in three schools receiving the We Care, Schools for Young Carers Award.

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Award of Contract for Young Carer Services

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 placed new duties on Local Authorities (detailed in Section 3). Additional funding to address these duties was made available to local authorities. The partners approved for the award of the Young Carer Support Service from October 2020 were Broomhouse t/a SPACE (lead), Edinburgh Young Carers and Capital Carers.
- 2.2 The partners have continued to provide support throughout the pandemic as schools have reopened, and recognise the impact of the lockdown on Young Carers and the need for specific additional supports for this group.
- 2.3 The partners have also updated their Young Carer Statements, which were approved at their Strategic Partnership Group meeting in June, and are now focusing on training for schools in identifying and supporting Young Carers.
- 2.4 Three local authority schools have recently been granted the We Care, Schools for Young Carers Award demonstrating their success in identifying and supporting young carers.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 places a number of legal duties on local authorities and the NHS. Duties under the Act include:
 - 3.1.1 Widening of the definition of a Carer, to encompass a greater volume of Carers
 - 3.1.2 Preparation of Adult Carer Support Plans or Young Carer Statements for anyone identified as a Carer, or for any Carer who requests one
 - 3.1.3 Providing support to Carers that meet local eligibility criteria
 - 3.1.4 Involving Carers in Carer's Services
 - 3.1.5 Preparation of a Carers Strategy
 - 3.1.6 Establishing and maintaining information and advice services for Carers

- 3.2 Communities and Families and The Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership worked to commission and procure a range of Carer Support Services.
- 3.3 The contract was divided into eight Lots according to the type of support, the Lot strategy being chosen to encourage smaller organisations to bid.
- 3.4 Support for Young Carers was Lot 7. This was awarded separately to the other Lots to ensure that these important supports could be put in place in a timely manner. Finance and Resources Committee granted approval for the contract to be awarded to Broomhouse t/a SPACE (lead), Edinburgh Young Carers and Capital Carers in September 2020, with a start date of 1st October 2020.
- 3.5 This contract is for a duration of 60 months, with the possible extension of a further 36 months.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The partners who were awarded the contract have continued to develop supports for Young Carers across the four localities, particularly important in light of the impact of the COVID-19. As the funding period is 1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021 a full year report can be provided for December Committee. A summary of the work to date is also detailed in Appendix One.
- 4.2 The revised Young Carers' Statement template, developed using a strengths-based approach underpinned by the Wellbeing Indicators and Outcomes, were approved at the Strategic Partnership Group meeting in June. Two versions of the template were created to meet the needs of the Young Carers, depending on their age and stage. The revised documents and guidance will now be introduced across all four localities.
- 4.3 This work will involve a launch via school websites, stakeholder communication pathways and social media to encourage and support the identification and engagement of Young Carers. Updated Young Carer information will be on the CEC website to provide information for Young Carers, school staff and other professionals supporting them. This will include a section on Young Carer statements.
- 4.4 Information has been shared with schools around their responsibilities to Young Carers including information on the young carers statements, their need to ensure they have a young carer coordinator identified, training dates and their points of contacts in terms of partners.
- 4.5 Four dates have been identified for citywide training for schools. All three providers are also offering individual training to schools, to provide schools with more personalised training at a date/time that suits them if required.
- 4.6 The training will be augmented by good practice guidance which is being developed for schools in collaboration with Young Carers. An outdoor event for young carers was held over the holidays to begin drafting the guidance.

- 4.7 Edinburgh Young Carers were delighted to announce that three schools in the city have recently been awarded We Care, Schools for Young Carers Award. This award celebrates good practice in identifying and supporting Young Carers. The schools receiving this award, James Gillespie's High School, Niddrie Mill Primary School and Tollcross Primary School, have been recognised for the contribution they've made to improving outcomes for young carers.
- 4.8 Contract Monitoring meetings are being undertaken as part of ongoing service evaluation.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Training for all establishments is being provided, with a locality approach and also the offer of individual training sessions where needed.
- 5.2 Contract Monitoring meetings are being undertaken with partners as part of our ongoing service evaluation.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The potential total value of this award is £5,268,518 including the maximum period of extension. The variable annual value reflects the availability of Scottish Government funding which is confirmed for the initial period of the contract.

2020-21	£535,648
2021-22	£650,255
2022-23	£670,233
2023-24	£680,578
2024-25	£680,242
2025-26	£680,304
2026-27	£680,432
2027-28	£690,824

- 6.2 The contract term of up to a possible eight years provides long-term financial security for the providers and ensures the sustainability of support services to Young Carers. The aim of the specification is for schools and other Communities and Families staff

to work with providers, to ensure continuous improvement which needs to meet the increase in numbers and the requirements of Young Carers throughout the contract term.

- 6.3 The staffing costs associated with procuring this contract along with the other Lots as above are estimated to be between £20,001 and £35,000.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 A large-scale market shaping exercise was undertaken to ensure the new funding from the Scottish Government and the current funding would be used to efficiently reach the greatest volume of Carers. Consultation with Carers and partner organisations was undertaken through different mechanisms such as; focus groups, online surveys, paper surveys, follow up meetings with Carers.
- 7.2 No significant environmental impacts are expected to arise from this contract.
- 7.3 This success of these contracts will be measurable against Key Performance Indicators which are detailed within the specifications.
- 7.4 An Integrated Impact Assessment was completed, and all recommendations were addressed throughout the tendering process.
- 7.5 All providers have completed a COVID-19 business continuity plan, confirming how services will continue under new measures provided by the Scottish Government. These measures will continue to be monitored throughout the lifetime of the contracts, to ensure that Carer supports are continued in other agile formats, when required.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Edinburgh Joint Carers' Strategy 2019-2022 <https://www.edinburghhsc.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Edinburgh-Joint-Carers-Strategy-2019-2022-FINAL.pdf>.
- 8.2 IIA Carers Act 2018 <https://www.edinburghhsc.scot/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/IIA-Carers-Act-2018.pdf>
- 8.3 Carers Investment IIA July 2020 <https://www.edinburghhsc.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/15.-Carers-Investment-IIA-Report-20-07-21.pdf>
- 9.4 [Award of Contracts for Edinburgh Carer Supports](#) Policy and Sustainability Committee August 2020

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Lot 7 – Young Carer Support in Edinburgh – Additional figures requested.

LOT 7 – YOUNG CARER SUPPORT IN EDINBURGH

ADDITIONAL FIGURES REQUESTED

1st October 2020 – 8th September 2021

Number of Young Carers Supported	525
Number of New Referrals	260
Number of Young Carer Statements Completed*	41
Number of group respite opportunities offered during summer**	90 groups
Number of Edinburgh schools engaged in YC awareness-raising	118 schools
Number of Young Carer Co-ordinators identified in Edinburgh Schools	113 schools have Young Carer Co-ordinators identified
Number of schools receiving awareness-raising assemblies or workshops	46 schools (4,078 pupils)
Number of training events delivered	13 training events (6 school specific and 7 open to all professionals)
Number of professionals attending training events	504

***Young Carer Statements (YCS)**

Team members from each of the three services have been involved in the creation of the YCS paperwork, guidance and processes as part of the YCS Short-Life Working Group with City of Edinburgh Council. The paperwork was signed off on 29th June 2021, and since this time all young carers supported by the three services have been advised again of their right to a Young Carer Statement, and have been offered to complete one with the support of a Development Worker / Support Worker.

During summer, the focus of the young carers services was in provision of respite support, reducing isolation and creating memories from a full and varied summer programme of activities. This was in addition to continued provision of emotional support to young carers who were struggling with the effects of being at home full-time during the summer holidays and in the context of post-lockdown recovery and resulting anxieties.

Since schools have returned, we have been able to free up more staff time to deliver Young Carer Statements. All young carers supported by the services have been offered a YCS, 41 have been completed, 42 are ongoing and 1 young carer has declined a statement.

****Group Respite Opportunities During Summer**

Continuing to deliver group respite opportunities for young carers during school holidays is an important part of our service delivery and of the contract requirements. Young carers can feel an

intense isolation, high levels of anxiety and huge pressures from their caring role when faced with a summer at home away from school and their peers. By delivering groups during the summer period we help to support peer relationships, increase opportunities for fun and creating memories, and help to support the emotional wellbeing of Edinburgh's young carers. We have been privileged this year to offer such a variety of opportunities due to each of our organisations receiving additional funding (Carers Trust, Mental health foundation/THRIVE partnership, Summer of fun/play funding) to support exciting trips and days out, including:

- Blair Drummond Safari Park
- Silverknowes beach and BBQ
- Adventure Golf Island
- Jupiter Artland
- 8-week outdoor programme of activities called Nurture in Nature
- Kayaking and paddleboarding
- Horrible Histories bus tour
- Weehailes Adventure Playground
- Horse Therapy Sessions
- Foxlake ropes course and ringos
- St Andrews aquarium and beach trip
- Inchcolm Island boat trip
- John Muir Alpaca experience
- East links family park
- Almond valley adventure park
- Extreme combat
- Loch Lomond treezone
- Yellowcraigs
- Bridge 8 watersports
- Go karting
- Frankie and benny's