

Guidance for Referral for a Young Carers Assessment (aged 5 - 18s)

Who is a young carer?

A young carer is a child or young person (aged 5 - 18) looking after someone in their family who, due to illness, disability, mental health problems or substance misuse, could not manage without their support. Young carers take on practical/emotional caring responsibilities that would usually be expected of an adult.

In practice this means the young carer may be doing all or some of the following: domestic tasks, household management, personal care, emotional care, financial management or practical care. Caring responsibilities often have negative effects on a child or young person's life. To receive support from Newcastle Carers, a young carer must care for someone living in Newcastle.

What is a Young Carers Assessment?

A Young Carers Assessment involves a Young Carers Worker working with the child/young person and their family to help them identify and put in place measures to reduce the caring role and to reduce any negative impacts that it has. Our work with young carers is person-centred and takes into account the wishes, feelings and aspirations of the child/young person.

What support is there for young carers turning 18?

A transition assessment helps those approaching the age of 18 plan for the future. Our Young Adult Carers Worker works with carers aged 18-25.

What about siblings with additional needs?

Many children and young people are impacted upon because they have a sibling with additional needs, but they are not necessarily young carers. When referring a child or young person for a Young Carers Assessment, please ensure they fit the definition of a young carer as above. You can refer parent carers of a child with additional needs to Newcastle Carers or to Skills for People for information, advice and support.

Who can refer a young carer for an assessment?

All professionals and organisations (e.g. schools/colleges, training providers, primary care, secondary care, social care, voluntary and community organisations etc.) with the consent of the young person (over 16s) or parent (under 16s). Parents, children and young people or family members can also self-refer.

How can I refer a young carer?

Via Newcastle Carers' Referral Form for Young Carers, available on our website:
www.newcastlecarers.org.uk.

If you want to discuss a referral, or would like further information, please contact us Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm:

Newcastle Carers

135-139 Shields Road
Byker
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 1DN

Tel (0191) 275 5060
SMS 07874 100043
Fax (0191) 265 1191