

The issue

Young carers can face many barriers and challenges within schools which may lead to them not reaching their full academic potential. When young carers are recognised within the school environment, work can be done to ensure that the impact their caring role has on their education is addressed and minimised.

Working within school settings is also an effective way of identifying hidden young carers and providing them with early support that can prevent their caring role having a negative impact on their education, health and wellbeing.

Colleges and universities have many young people juggling the dual role of being a student and a carer. However, few are likely to have shared this with their tutors or lecturers and so will be trying to navigate the pressures of higher education and caring without recognition of their unique situation. Many young adult carers also feel conflicted about leaving home to study at a university or college away from their family and the person they care for. This can lead to reduced education and employment opportunities.

Covid-19 has had a huge impact on children and young people across the UK and those with caring responsibilities are likely to be disproportionately affected. Therefore, we are particularly looking for proposals that seek to address learning gaps linked to the pandemic.

Funding

We are **not** looking for standalone new projects to be set up to support young carers and young adult carers. What we want to fund is work that amplifies the impact of what you are already doing with young carers and enables your existing support to develop or go further. This might mean adding an education component to what you already do or increasing the work you are currently doing around education and young carers/young adult carers.

We welcome applications that;

- Provide support to young carers and young adult carers who have fallen behind with their learning due to their caring responsibilities and the impact of Covid-19.
- That work in/with local primary and secondary schools to identify, support and raise awareness of young carers. Projects may provide support directly to young carers as well as helping schools to develop whole-school approaches to raising awareness of caring and supporting children and young people who have caring responsibilities.
- Support young adult carers to continue in higher and further education and training