

Organisation Name	Reference	2021-05-YC015
Gloucestershire Young Carers		

Visit Date	Visited By
04/05/2023	Alison Hope

Grant Summary

To employ an Education Development Officer, working alongside young carers, to expand our work supporting schools and colleges across Gloucestershire to better identify, understand and support young carers to reach their educational potential.

Visit Details (People met, premises visited etc.)

Clover Lake Education Development Officer.
Hana Gil, Development Manager (Education and Participation)

At their offices just outside Gloucester

Information about the Organisation

Really enthusiastic women. Clover is new in post but her predecessor still works at GYC so the contacts/experience of the first year is not lost. Clover has lots of experience with YP in challenging circumstances. Her current task is to contact 90 families whose YC is moving from primary school to secondary school to ask permission to let the new school know their circumstances. They say that primary school is vital for identifying YCs but that hopefully at that stage they less impacted as later when demands of homework, exams come along and students rather than parents are responsible for punctuality. The work we fund has enabled GYC to establish a YC lead in each school and support them to identify YC, set up groups, train teachers to be YC aware. They have their own school accreditation which they established before the Carers Trust did theirs and feel that theirs is better as it has one level (not three) and is more manageable. One element is that at least 1/3 of YCs at school have to provide feedback on whether they feel that they are supported. At times this has revealed shortcomings. Hana described the accreditation process as 'a pat on the back or a bit of a kick up the ****'

In each school GYC establishes a relationship with usually the pastoral lead. To become accredited they have to also have a lead on the SMT and also a governor has to be the designated board lead. This ensures that if the staff member leaves that the others will take responsibility for the work to continue. Clover had done 5 assemblies in a single school that week which has resulted in one YP coming forward to say 'I think that's me' ie they are a YC. One of the issues they want to explore is schools which fine parents for child absenteeism. This is an issue for YCs and results in a fine. Anecdotally this is causing some parents to take their child out to be 'home schooled'. At that point the school has no oversight nor anyone else so it is likely that the YC is losing out on significant chunks if not all of their education; very likely if there is a cared for parent in the home (which includes MH and drugs misuse).

I was interested to hear about other aspects of their work.

50% of referrals come from schools

Statutory funding covers the assessment of any YC referred to them but nothing else.

They do not have any significant waiting times so YC and families can be supported quickly. The relationship with schools is multifaceted. Often other members of the team will undertake part of an assessment at school so that they can speak to the child privately and hopefully get more information.

They run a Caring Counts Course for 11yrs+ which is for YP to build confidence and self esteem by showing them all the skills they are developing by being a YC rather than simply missing out.

They also have mediated programme called Interact – for parents who have MH issues and their child - Often a young child may not be told what is really happening, but when older it can be really helpful to explain what is going on, and that its not their fault, they can't cure them etc - sounds like a family therapy programme.

Hana had been part of the Cranfield support programme and said how useful it was to be connected to others doing the same role.

Issues and Comments

The end of our funding will be a cliff edge for the funding of this role/work. Hana asked if I had any suggestions for where they might go for continuation funding.

Hana had just received the notification about the end of TT funding for carers and was curious about the rationale for this.

Other Feedback

I was really impressed with this organisation.