

Organisation Name	Reference	2021-05-YC020
MYTIME Young Carers		

Visit Date	Visited By
Zoom call 10 February 2023	Sarah Cutler

Grant Summary
<p>MYTIME works with schools to ensure young carers have everything they need to achieve their full personal, academic and professional potential. They help schools to monitor and boost the attendance and attainment of young carers, but that's not all. Like all children, young carers need to feel supported, understood and accepted in order to be able to thrive, and at MYTIME they recognise the importance of meeting their social and emotional needs in school, as well as their academic needs.</p> <p>The grant will enable MYTIME to recruit a Level Up Programme Co-Ordinator who will work to ensure that the young carers of Dorset receive everything they need in school to thrive, both in education and beyond.</p> <p>www.mytimeyoungcarers.org</p>

Visit Details (People met, premises visited etc.)
<p>I met with Penny Day, Head of Fundraising, Krista Sharp, the CEO and Dan Morris, Level Up Manager</p>

Information about the Organisation

Issues and Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I started by thanking them for the detailed reports already provided and we noted that the level of information requested is quite detailed! They said that whilst time-consuming, the report pushed their thinking, particularly around quantitative targets. • Krista explained that initially the programme idea came from having worked in schools, and thinking about how to identify and support carers. The work had grown from CPD, assemblies, policy that the schools led. Became increasingly obvious that more needs to be done. A lot of other elements that need to be put in place to make sustainable and systemic change.

- Data collection by the programme has revealed has some really exciting data insight that don't exist elsewhere, miss a huge amount of school for example data on attainment.
- Dan started in September – had about 85 schools at varying degrees of engagement. Found that schools had engaged and signed up and then engagement had subsided. Dan went through a process of reviewing what schools have had and what they need. MyTime updated and professionalised what was offered including setting up a champion training programme, part online and part face to face.
- Continuing to recruit schools on a trust basis rather than individual schools– 122 now within Dorset. A trust wide approach, which helps to reduce risk that ppl drop through the gaps.
- There has been a rise in young carers accessing support – in the first year sent out 300 bags to young carers – this year sent over 1000. Working with young people can filter into support to the Making Memories group. Group work is now delivered 4 nights a week, including one night a week for yp who can struggle in bigger groups.
- The team are passionate about whether yp feel heard and seen. They ask yp for direct feedback including holding forums with kids, who were honest that even where schools we signed up, the yp were receiving mixed support. MyTime feel they were giving the school all the tools but not always implemented effectively, delivered by staff.
- Important to the team that they don't start with assumption that schools should know how to support young carers; there are a lot of different pathways for YC to go into.
- MyTime has developed a comprehensive TOC which has allowed to look at short term outcomes but also look at medium term outcomes. Three programmes overlap and integrate, for some it's a lifeline. They have seen great value in the friendships between young carers.
- The organisation had a scary cashflow situation in the summer because trusts and foundations had delayed their decision-making schedules for grant renewals.
- Individual giving is lower as a result of cost of living crisis. A couple of foundations have given a 10% bump to the grant. Working hard to build up unrestricted reserves, targeting trusts and foundations who offer unrestricted grants.
- Schools don't want to run fundraising as parents already under pressure. Schools staff and energy bills under massive pressure.
- Looking forward to their June conference event with Uni of Bournemouth – Dan (who himself has a background as a young carer) and young carers that shared their experiences. Their goal is to get more headteachers and decision-makers in the room. Their dream is to make Dorset the Mecca of young carer support. Believe can create this framework and expand it nationally.
- Points they wanted to ask TT:
 1. Would any staff or trustees want to attend their education summit in June, they would be welcome.
 2. At the end of the two years can they reapply?
 3. Any trusts or foundations that TT can introduce us to?

Other Feedback
<p>A really committed and energetic team, with excellent values and a mix of skills and perspectives as former teachers and people with lived experience of being a young carer.</p> <p>An interesting model for how to work with schools in a sustainable and scalable way.</p> <p>Challenges include short term project funding, delayed funder decisions on renewals, and no chance of generating sufficient income due to pressure of cost of living on communities and school budgets.</p>