

<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Reference</b>	2021-05-YC025
Sandwell Young Carers		

<b>Visit Date</b>	<b>Visited By</b>
25 November 2023	Doreen Foster

### Grant Summary

To improve 180 young carer's educational outcomes and opportunities for their future through a programme of awareness raising in schools and colleges. Additionally, direct time limited support will be provided to young carers to tackle added inequalities created during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I spent time with Tracy Hawley (CEO) who expressed deep gratitude for our funding and really appreciated the visit. She commented on how refreshing the monitoring process is in contrast to other funders requiring reams of reporting/paperwork. Also met staff most of whom were either delivering or supporting sessions. Met a number of the young carers some were super impressive/bright as a precious diamond - one is about to publish his third book and he is no more than 10! The Forum was meeting at the time of the visit and one of the student social workers was also onsite overseeing one of the groups.

### Information about the Organisation

Sandwell Young Carers' aim is to provide support for children and young people aged between five and 18 years of age whose health, education and lives are affected as a result of having to care for a dependent family member.

The main activities undertaken are a short breaks/respice programme, Young Carer Aware – an awareness raising project aimed at schools and local social care teams (children and adult teams), and support and advocacy.

Over the course of the year SYC works with around 600 young carers.

### Issues and Comments

Since being awarded the funding SYC has become a hub for social work training with a practise educator training staff to be practise supervisors.  
Their Young Peoples Forum working is working with the university, providing feedback on needs of carers and how social workers can best support these needs.

Annual local authority funding contracts lead to constant state of uncertainty.  
However, Tracey is clearly expert at securing funding to ensure service continuity.

Tracey and I discussed our change in focus/strategy - whilst it meant that SYC could no longer apply we agreed that we might/were potentially also helping some of her interest group some of whom were also at risk (she has several examples). So, whilst we are not directly supporting carers, we are making a difference to the lives of some young people who find themselves as carers and at risk of offending.

Everyone was expecting me, I do wonder what would happen if we gave recipients less notice.

#### **Other Feedback**