

1 March 2018

Stakeholders and partners
Wiltshire Children and Young People's Trust

LA Circular: A050/18

Families and Children's Services
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Our ref: yc/02/18

Dear Colleague,

Re: Services for Wiltshire's young carers

I am writing to notify you of some changes that are taking place to the way in which the Council supports young carers in Wiltshire from 1 April 2018.

What's changing?

Currently, young carers are referred to Spurgeon's using either the Digital Assessment and Referral Tool (DART), if you are a school, or Single Assessment Referral Form (SARF) via the Council. An assessment of need is carried out by Spurgeon's which then offers support and activities as considered most appropriate.

From 1 April 2018, the Council will not pass referrals for young carers onto another organisation but will have staff in post who will consider the young person's needs themselves. We think that this approach will help young people who are caring for someone more, by keeping them closer to other support for children and families.

In addition, Carer Support Wiltshire has been commissioned to offer support and guidance to communities, health settings and schools, and to deliver a programme of breaks. Carer Support Wiltshire will be campaigning to raise awareness of the issues facing carers of all ages, including young carers. Carer Support Wiltshire will be in touch with your organisation to make sure you know who they are and how to get in touch with them.

Will there still be chances for young carers to have breaks and activities?

Young carers who most need a break from their caring responsibilities will still be offered a chance to meet other young carers, learn new skills and have fun. Carer Support Wiltshire will be responsible for organising a programme of breaks and activities. The Council will identify those children and young people for whom breaks will be most beneficial, and will organise activities and breaks with agreement from families. All young carers need different things and we will be working hard to make sure that we have in place what is right for each child or young person.

These changes are all about providing the right help first time around.

Do I need to do anything?

From 1 April, you can:

- Continue to use a DART (or SARF if you do not have access to DART) to refer a young person whom you believe to be a young carer,

- Contact Carer Support Wiltshire for advice on how best to support a young carer you are aware of or working with, <https://carersinwiltshire.co.uk/>,
- Continue to promote early support resources, such as [Kooth](#) (an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people), [OnYourMind.org.uk](#) (which signposts children and young people in **Wiltshire** to sources of support for good mental health and emotional wellbeing), and visit [Wiltshire Healthy Schools](#). In addition, visit the [Carers Trust](#) for support and guidance.

Who should I contact with questions or concerns?

If you have any questions about the changes, please contact Judy Edwards on 01225 713712 or email judy.edwards@wiltshire.gov.uk.

After 1 April 2018, queries about support for young carers in Wiltshire should be directed to Jill Bourne, Service Manager, at jill.bourne@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Thank you for your understanding as we implement these changes.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Townsend". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'T'.

Lucy Townsend
Director, Families and Children's Services