

Professionals' Learning Events: Identification of Hidden Young Carers

Manchester

Funded by the Co-op Foundation's Building Connections fund, The Children's Society are delivering a year-long programme of work which aims to reduce loneliness and isolation amongst young carers. Through targeted identification of the most hidden and isolated young carers, this project will reduce the impacts of loneliness and vulnerabilities related to Hidden Harm, including mental health/wellbeing; stress/anxiety; self-harm; and risk of online grooming/exploitation.



Project Aims

This project is part of the government's loneliness strategy, and is operating across 11 areas in England, including Manchester. Through the work we will undertake with multi agency professionals alongside local authorities and local young carers' groups, we aim to ensure that:

- Young carers are better identified and supported by professionals
- Young carers - including those from isolated and hidden groups - are better connected, and experience less loneliness and isolation
- There is increased public awareness of loneliness & isolation amongst young carers

Working with Local Authorities

The project will work alongside the Local Authority, Young Carers projects, and other key professionals in order to share information about current good practice in Manchester, recognise the specific needs and challenges of the area, and identify potential hidden groups of young carers.

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to take reasonable steps to identify young carers, as well as to provide an assessment of their needs, in order that they have equal access to education, career choices and wider opportunities. Identification of some young carers can be more difficult, and they can remain hidden for many reasons, and it is therefore important that local authorities and multi-agency professionals are trained and aware of hidden young carers and the challenges they face, to ensure they are best placed to work together to identify and support young carers.

Professionals' Learning Events

The Children's Society is holding free **Professionals' Learning Events** across England. These events will bring together a broad range of multi-agency professionals and will provide bespoke training around identifying, referring and supporting young carers. This event will also provide attendees with the opportunity to understand the factors that can influence a young carer's likelihood to remain hidden; associated vulnerabilities of being a young carer; and how a whole systems, whole family approach can be utilised to better support young carers. Through these events, and our partnership with local authorities, we aim to:

- Increase identification of young carers, particularly those from hidden groups, e.g. high levels of deprivation, caring for those with substance and alcohol misuse or mental illnesses, and those in Eastern European communities.
- Increase professionals' knowledge and confidence in identifying, referring and supporting young carers
- Increase learning for community groups and professionals
- Support local authorities in delivering a 'whole systems, whole family' approach, working in partnership with multi-agency professionals across the area

This learning event will be bespoke to Manchester and will be enhanced by e-bulletins, access to resources and webinars throughout the year.

We will also provide an opportunity to share examples of good practice and extend the learning of this project across England through a National Learning Conference and Celebration. This conference will bring together key stakeholders and all 11 regions involved in the project.

Why should you attend?

Young Carers lead isolated and hidden lives. Only 166,363 were identified through the census data in 2011, however a 2018 BBC survey estimates that there are over 800,000 young carers - meaning thousands are unidentified within England. Young carers who are lonely and isolated are particularly vulnerable to hidden harm, e.g. exploitation and dangerous coping mechanisms such as substance misuse and offending behaviour.

There are many professionals and organisations working with young people, adults and families where a child or young person may have caring responsibilities but may not yet have been identified. To enable hidden young carers to be identified and supported, those professionals working in specialist services, community groups, education, and health have a role to play when working with children, adults and families. This professional learning event will enable you to explore how your role can seek to actively identify hidden young carers, ensuring they are less isolated and vulnerable.



When: Tuesday 14th January 2020

Time: 09:30 – 13:00

Venue: Z-Arts, 335 Stretford Road, Manchester, M15 5ZA

Booking: Complete booking form and return to michelle.gregory@childrenssociety.org.uk

For more information:
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