

Policy Reference Number	
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Originator	Louise Dale-Barron
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A Introduction

A.1 This Young Adult Carers Policy has been developed to recognise, promote and support students.

At Solihull Sixth Form we believe that all young people have the right to an education regardless of what is happening at home. When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need extra support to help to ensure that they achieve their potential.

The college holds the Quality Standard Carer Support Award from the Carers Federation.

B Definition

B.1 A Young Adult Carer (YAC) is a young person (16-25) who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill, or has a substance misuse problem. At Solihull Sixth Form we recognise that caring can also involve physical and emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well-being. The level of responsibility assumed by a young adult carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up, and as such may impact on the education of the young person.

C Identifying a Young Adult Carer

C.1 A Young Adult Carer may disclose their caring duties on the College's application form, during interview or enrolment, or whilst they are on course. A young adult carer may also be identified by negative aspects of their behaviour or work in College. Some young adult carers may seek to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers for fear of exposing family members or of appearing different.

Some of the indications that a student is in a caring role are:

- Regular lateness, or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing periodically
- Tiredness during the college day
- Lack of homework completed or of poor quality

- Lack of concentration, or increased anxiety or worry
- Under-achievement of potential capability
- Behavioural problems
- Apparent parental disinterest, delays in response, non-attendance to parents/carers' evening or other events
- Poor hygiene/physical appearance

D Support Offered

D.1 We recognise that each Young Adult Carer is an individual and therefore will require different types and levels of support. Every Young Adult Carer will receive support from their academic coach. The college also has an Academic Coach Young Adult Carers Lead who oversees the progress and support of our Young Adult Carers. Young Adult Carers can also expect support of teachers in understanding the impact of a student's caring role on their education. Young Adult Carers are also encouraged to access support from the Solihull Young Adult Carers Team who attend College on a regular basis.

More information about the support available can be found in Appendix 1.

D.2 We will:

- Have a named Academic Coach who has lead responsibility for Young Adult Carers at College.
- Have a named Governor who will oversee the provision for Young Adult Carers.
- Provide opportunities for appropriate peer support from students at college and in Trust schools through our Young Adult Carers group.
- Work closely with external Young Adult Carer bodies to ensure appropriate support.
- Support young adult carers' next steps to ensure they benefit from widening participation opportunities available from HE institutions and apprenticeship providers.

APPENDIX 1: Young Adult Carers Protocol

Referral is made to the YAC's local Young Adult Carers support group i.e. the one that covers their home address, not the College. We have to date YAC's who are supported by the following organisations:

Solihull <https://www.solihullcarers.org/category/young-carers/>

Birmingham <https://spurgeonsyc.org/birmingham/>

Birmingham <https://ymcasc.org.uk/>

Warwickshire <https://www.warwickshireyoungcarers.org.uk/>

But of course there may be more as we recruit students from the wider West Midlands area. A quick Google search of the area + young adult carers (e.g. 'Oldbury young adult carers') should identify the student's local young adult carers' organisation.

Role of Academic Coach Young Adult Carers Lead

- To oversee the referral of YACs to their local Young Carer support group
- To monitor the progress of identified YACs
- To support Academic Coaches in supporting identified YACs
- To identify and implement ways in which YACs can be better supported at College e.g. focus groups / Carers Café
- Liaise with external agencies as necessary
- Provide opportunities for appropriate peer support for YACs at College and in Trust schools through our Young Adult Carers group
- Recording of YAC status on Arbor
- Add YAC to entry to College without ID list if appropriate
- Leading the College through Young Adult Carers' Federation Quality Mark
- Liaising with young adult carers charities regarding visits to the College
- Helping Young Adult Carers register with their local young charity if requested

Role of Academic Coaches

- Be aware of students with young caring duties
- Make the relevant external referrals for students who disclose YAC responsibilities during AC meetings
- Inform YAC of bursary
- Liaise with teaching staff regarding impact of caring duties on learning
- Refer Academic Coach Young Adult Carers Lead
- Complete additional one to one appointments.

Role of ALS

- Initial assessment of any identified additional learning support needs

Other sources of information and support

- NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/support-and-benefits-for-carers/being-a-young-carer-your-rights/>