**Eligibility Criteria for Gloucestershire Young Carers**

*Please note that demands for our service exceed our capacity and we operate a waiting list.*

*Please feel free to contact us if you are unsure whether or not a referral is appropriate.*

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| Definition |

Young carers are children and young people who assume important caring responsibilities for someone in their family who has a disability, a long term illness, or is affected by mental ill health or substance misuse. Young carers take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities above and beyond that expected of their peers.

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| Eligibility criteria |

Gloucestershire Young Carers provides services for young carers aged **5-24**

N.B we currently have only a very limited service for young carers under the age of 8.

When referring you will be asked to identify the practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities undertaken by the child or young person and the impact those responsibilities are having upon at least one of the following:

* physical/mental health
* education
* emotional and behavioural development
* family and social/peer relationships.

Where caring responsibilities or impact on the child or young person are unclear, you will be asked to clarify.

Priority will be given to ‘primary’ young carers i.e. where there is no adult carer and to ‘secondary’ young carers who need to provide substantial support due to family circumstances.

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| Children and young people may *not* be eligible if: |

* their caring responsibilities do not have an adverse impact on the above points
* care tasks are age appropriate and do not exceed what an ‘average’ child of their age would undertake (e.g. a teenager helping with some house work, walking to the local shop etc)
* they are living with a family member who is ill, disabled or misusing substances but are not providing care for that person, for themselves or for siblings.
* their caring responsibilities are due to parenting issues or neglect (i.e. caring for siblings because parents are working or inattentive)
* there is no parental consent and the young carer is under 18 years of age.

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| Assessment process |

Assessment and support planning are generally undertaken in the family home. Following assessment we will inform the family and the referrer whether we are able to offer a service as soon as possible.

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| Review |

If the child or young person meets our criteria, we will offer them a service, based on their assessed needs.

Young carers of secondary school age will need to attend our group programme ‘Caring Counts’ or complete a ‘Well Being Plan’ prior to accessing our mainstream services such as Young Carer Groups and short breaks.

**NB: young carers will only be offered a place in one of our groups if this meets their specific needs**

To contact your local Young Carer and Family Locality Worker please call:

Forest of Dean and Cheltenham 07773 331886

Gloucester and Tewkesbury 07773 331656

Stroud District and the Cotswolds 07773 331890