

### Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Delegated Grant Scheme for a Young Carer's Group/ activities
<b>Date of decision:</b>	31 January 2019
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director for Children & Families
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>The Local Authority has a duty to assess whether a young carer in their area has needs for support, and if so, what those needs are and how they are met (Children and Families Act 2014).</p> <p>The Director for Children and Families delegates the award of each grant to the Assistant Director Education Development and Skills or the Early Help Manager following an assessment process.</p> <p>The awards will be made in accordance with the financial procedure rules and the appropriate limits therein.</p>
<b>Ward:</b>	All wards
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>The Joint Carers Strategy for Herefordshire 2017 – 2021 was co-produced with carers.</p> <p>Consultation has been undertaken with the Cabinet member for Children and Families, the Director for Children &amp; Families and the Early Help Manager following a petition and media interest regarding activity clubs for young carer's.</p> <p>Young carer's will be identified to support the development of the scheme and will take part in the assessment process.</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>Herefordshire Council will invite applications for grant funding to support young carers groups across the county.</p> <p>The maximum budget allocated for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 is £20,000; the provision is within the contracts budget for this scheme.</p> <p>Each individual grant amount will not exceed £5,000.</p> <p>If successful, the grant scheme (at a maximum value of £20,000) will be re-opened to fund activities between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</p> <p>All activities will be expected to support the early identification of young carers. Activities may also for example provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a place where they can meet other young people experiencing the same things as them;</li> <li>• an opportunity to talk to and share experiences, skills and advice;</li> <li>• the opportunity to learn new skills for themselves as well as for the person they care for</li> <li>• support for access to education and work the same as all young people; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the chance to spend some time away from their caring duties and have fun, preventing isolation.</li> </ul> <p>As well as supporting identification of young carers/ providing some time for positive activities and self-development, all activities will help encourage and support potential young carers to be assessed and registered by the Young Carers Support Service (YCSS) in the Herefordshire Early Help Team so they can receive the information, advice and support they are entitled to.</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>In the Joint Carers Strategy for Herefordshire 2017 – 2021 that has been co-produced with carers in Herefordshire, the shared vision is that carers are recognised and valued, able to keep well and live their own life.</p> <p>Within these priorities it is been highlighted that young carers need to be identified early in order to obtain appropriate information, advice, support and entitlements for themselves and the person they care for. Young carers need to be supported to lead lives of their own and access opportunities available to other children and young people and within the community, to live a fulfilled childhood as well as in education and work and achieve their potential.</p> <p>The council received a petition in August 2018 relating to the provision of young carers support. Young carers groups receiving funding from sources other than the council ended, highlighting the need to ensure sufficient support for young carers in Herefordshire.</p> <p><a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=50001046&amp;RPID=12184937&amp;HPID=12184937">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=50001046&amp;RPID=12184937&amp;HPID=12184937</a></p> <p>The creation of Delegated Grant Scheme for a Young Carer's Group/ activities will enable the council to explore best models of delivery for meeting the needs of young carers.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>There is a risk that no suitable applications for the grant are received. As mitigation, the grant will be advertised and promoted across Herefordshire, including on the Council Website.</p> <p>In order to mitigate the risk of activities being unable to deliver outcomes identified, activities will be required to submit evidence of impact. The grant model, allows for innovative approaches and outcomes achieved will inform future delivery models.</p>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>An alternative approach considered was to commission one provider to deliver carer support across the county. However, in order to ensure that support is community based, and to allow exploration of the best model of both identification and local support for young carers, a grants approach was the most appropriate option.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	<p>If any officers or members involved or consulted in the decision-making have declared an interest you should include the declaration here.</p>

Signed

Date: 31 January 2019