

Introduction to a Young Carer's assessment

A young carer is a person under 18 who provides care for another person.

Young carers are entitled to an assessment and support from the Local Authority. The Local Authority has a duty to consider the impact on young carers. Being a young carer can have an affect on the young person's emotional and physical health and impact on their education and wellbeing.

[Section 17 Children Act 1989](#) places a duty on Local Authorities to assess whether a young carer needs support and what those needs are if:

- it appears to the Local Authority that a young carer may have need for support;
- the Local Authority receive a request from a young carer or a parent of a young carer to assess the young carer's need for support; or
- an assessment has been carried out, but the circumstances of the young person or person being cared for have changed.

The assessment must take on a 'whole family approach' involving the young carer, the parents and any other person the young carer requests to be involved. Professionals around the young carer should look at whether their caring role is limiting their potential and if that person has the same access to opportunities as others without caring responsibilities.

The wishes, feelings and aspirations of the young carer and their family should be at the heart of an assessment. The assessment must look at:

- whether or not the young carer wants to continue caring
- whether it is appropriate for them to be in a caring role
- whether or not any of the young carers caring responsibilities are inappropriate such as personal care tasks
- the impact on the health and development of the young carer for example whether any opportunities such as education or recreational are affected or limited
- must determine whether the young carer is giving 'excessive' care

The young carer should always be offered the opportunity to have a private conversation with the assessor. Where a young carer's eligibility needs are identified as requiring support, local councils should consider providing support for the young carer, or providing adequate care and support to the person they are caring for to help reduce the young carer's role.



Your local authority may carry out combined assessments with other services such as the NHS. This ensures that all professionals involved are aware of decisions being made and outcomes.

To find out more about young carer's support and assessment contact your local carers centre.

