

<b>Service:</b>	Children and Young People's Services
<b>Title:</b>	Young Carers - Assessment Guidance
<b>Manual:</b>	Children in Need
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## INTRODUCTION

When assessing a Young Carer's situation, certain points need to be taken into consideration. The following guidelines will be followed by staff when carrying out Young Carers' assessments.

### **When assessing a potential Young Carer the following will be taken into consideration:**

- are the helping tasks of the child/young person acceptable within the family/cultural context?
- are the helping tasks of a personal or practical nature?
- what is the level of wider family support?
- does poor housing affect the family's ability to deal with the situation?
- do financial problems affect the family's ability to deal with the situation (is advice on welfare benefits needed)?
- is the child's/young person's school attendance being affected by the caring tasks?
- is the child/young person able to participate in social activities?
- which parenting tasks is the adult restricted in undertaking?
- are the child's/young person's social, emotional or behavioural needs affected?
- is the health or welfare of the child/young person impaired because of the tasks undertaken?
- is the illness/disability stable or changing - deteriorating or improving?
- does the family have time individually or collectively, away from the demands of the illness/disability?
- is the child/young person making a positive decision to be /not to be a carer?

### **Staff will also be aware that there are 'good and bad' things about caring**

#### **Good**

- you feel good, proud and satisfied.
- you know that you are helping someone.
- caring can make you feel older, more mature and grown up.
- you gain new skills and experience e.g. housework, cooking, managing money.
- you become closer to the person you care for.
- you feel good making the person feel loved and wanted.
- you feel good because you are thinking of others before yourself.
- caring makes you feel special.
- good friends will support and help you.
- caring is very rewarding.

- you feel needed and important.
- you feel relied upon.
- you feel you have achieved something.

## **Bad**

- little or no free time/social time.
- you may be bullied or ridiculed for caring.
- you can miss out on school trips or activities.
- sometimes you may have to do housework and difficult tasks.
- you get tired and depressed.
- caring can be embarrassing.
- sometimes you fall asleep in class.
- you may suffer from stress.
- if you were ill you will still have to care.
- caring can be lonely and you feel unloved.
- you are on call twenty four hours a day.
- you may lose out on education.
- you are too young to care and you should be out enjoying yourself.
- job prospects may be limited.
- you get the 'mick' taken out of you.
- you miss out on growing up.
- caring can be worrying.

***This is a Controlled Document***