

Scrutiny Committee Response Tracker

Date of meeting	Query raised	Response / Update
5 July 2022	Further information on Young Carers contract	<p>Detail: The Young Carers project is a joint Camden and Islington Young Carers Service (CIYC). The contract is jointly commissioned across Camden and Islington with Camden acting as the Lead Commissioner. The contract was originally awarded for a three-year term, from April 2017 until March 2020, with two options to extend for two years. It has been extended once (2020-2022), and a final extension was awarded for the period 2022-2024. Family Action were awarded the contract and continue to deliver the services. The contract value is £188,390.60</p> <p>The role of the service is to support young carers in their caring role by working collaboratively with families, the wider community, schools, and statutory services. The impact of this work is reducing inappropriate caring levels and feelings of responsibility, isolation and loneliness, anxiety, and stress. Boosting young people's self-esteem and emotional resilience, improve educational attainment, peer, and family relationships, and improve the life chances of young carers and their families.</p> <p>The CIYC can provide support that is bespoke to the young carer and their family's wishes and needs. It includes advocacy, referrals to community and specialist services, leisure and recreational activities, training, volunteering opportunities and other routes to employment. Family Action have performed well in delivering the service.</p> <p>Kidstime is a multi-agency service providing social and educational interventions for families affected by parental mental ill health and is part of the multi-agency parental mental illness service for Camden and Islington. Kidstime provides workshops for families in which one or both parents are experiencing or has experienced mental health issues and is coordinated and led by a Senior Young Carers Practitioner from the Family Action Islington and Camden Young Carers team but is delivered in partnership with a multidisciplinary team including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Children's Social Work Practitioner • Family/Systemic Psychotherapist • Consultant Child and Adult Psychiatrist • Drama facilitator <p>The aim of this service is to which to reduce the negative impact of parental mental ill health on children and to build their resilience by providing them with information about mental illness that reduces their fears. In addition to the monthly workshops Family Action offers support outside of these group sessions to families in response to presenting needs, offering emotional and practical support, signposting and liaising with the professional network. This can include separate family and child sessions with the Family Therapist and</p>

Senior Young Carers Practitioner as well as attending core meetings for families where children are on a Child in Need of Child Protection plan.

Family Action offer mentoring for young carers who previously received whole family support or Kidstime. A Sterling Wellbeing Scale is completed at the beginning and reviews at the middle and end of mentoring.

Mentoring is offered for up to 12 months with sessions offered twice a month.

Family Action is linked to schools working with School to train staff to identify children who may benefit from the service. There is a proposal to support families to engage with the service via Schools including work to dispel myths regarding the service and links to safeguarding.

Impact

A summary of key impact in the last year include:

- End of year monitoring statistics showed intervention led to a reduction in the amount of care undertaken in 67% of cases closed in March 2020-April 21.
- End of year monitoring statistics showed intervention led to a decrease in the negative impacts of caring reported in 80% of cases closed in 2020 – 21 and an increase in positive impact in 40% in this period.
- Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scales - End of year monitoring statistics showed an increase in self-esteem at point of closure in 67% of cases closed in March 2020- April 21.
- School Attendance percentage - At the point of closure 52% of YC closed to support had attendance of 95% or above, and 13% had 90% or above. With a combined total of 65% of cases attendance percentage between 90-95% attendances for March 2020-April 2021.

The pandemic impacted on face-to-face delivery. However, the provider continued to support young carers and families remotely and resumed face to face once restrictions lifted. Service user feedback also allowed young carers to determine how to receive support in the absence of a face-to-face service due to the pandemic restrictions. Adolescent young carers preferred telephone calls over virtual platforms such as zoom, as these were less exposing and intrusive. By combining telephone calls with more frequent support, Family Action were able to respond to young carers needs more effectively.

Islington's budget is made up of a combination of the Troubled Families Grant and NCL CCG funding. Service user feedback is collected on an ongoing basis. Feedback led to changes to the frequency of support, increasing contact to bi-weekly for Kidstime families and young carers.

Having traditionally delivered Young Carers awareness training, events, and workshops to multiple agencies in multiple settings across Camden and Islington, Family Action have spent much of 2020/21 to developing and finalising their Young Carers Champion Award, to promote a whole family approach and develop new partnerships. In doing this, they have engaged with local teams and services to offer additional support to youth practitioners and HUBS.