

Young Adult Carers Policy			
Current Status	Operational – Awaiting Approval	Last Review:	February 2024
Responsibility for Review:	Group Head of Welfare and Safeguarding	Next Review:	July 2025
Roles Responsible for Review:		Originated:	February 2022
Approved by:	SET Curriculum	Committee:	EEG Educational Excellence Committee
Type of Policy:	Staff / Students	Quality Assured by:	

1. General/Summary

2. Introduction

- 2.1. Eastern Education Group (EEG) which includes One Sixth Form College, Abbeygate Sixth Form College and West Suffolk College are committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at college are identified at an early stage and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled. EEG has obtained the 'Driving Change' (national) Award recognizing the work we do and have done with Young Adult Carers.
- 2.2. Some young carers have not identified themselves to Student Welfare and are therefore not known to staff. Being a young adult carer can be a hidden cause of poor attendance, under achievement and bullying, with many young carers dropping out of education or achieving no qualifications; so, it is important for staff to liaise with Student Welfare if they learn a student is a young carer.
- 2.3. A young adult carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone who could not cope without their support. Most are caring for a parent, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member.
- 2.4. The person they look after will have one or more of the following:
 - Physical disability (including sensory disability)
 - Learning disability
 - Mental health problem
 - Chronic illness
 - Substance misuse problem

3. Policy Statement/Scope

- 3.1. At Eastern Education Group, we believe that all young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home.

- 3.2. When a young person looks after someone who has a serious illness, disability, a mental health issue, or substance misuse problem, they may need extra support to help them get the most out of college. Our Young Adult Carers Policy says how we will support any learner who helps to look after someone who could not cope without their support.

4. Policy Objectives

4.1 Eastern Education Group is committed to:

- promoting the education and welfare of Young Adult Carers
- ensuring that Young Adult Carers have a voice in issues relating to their education
- challenging negative stereotyping and promoting inclusion
- targeting support appropriately
- ensuring appropriate level of support for parents/carers
- ensuring our staff are trained to understand this key cohort.

5. Policy Implementation

- 5.1. On disclosure, staff will ensure that Student Welfare staff are made aware so they can ensure the student receives the appropriate information, advice and guidance.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1. Governance

6.1.1. The Corporation/Trust Board are responsible for ensuring a Young Carer's Policy is in place and procedures relating to that policy are adhered to.

6.1.2. The governance Lead for Safeguarding is in place and has had training regarding Young Adult Carers.

6.1.3. It is important that all staff who are in contact with a child or young person are aware that he/she is a young carer. However, it is important that information around the reasons for the young person being a carer is shared on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with the wishes of the young person and will:

- recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of the young adult carer. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
 - automatic referral to Student Welfare for information regarding financial support and how to apply for the Bursary.
 - access to telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home,
 - negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed),
 - arrangements for coursework to be sent home (when there is a genuine

crisis),

- access for parents with impaired mobility,
- alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.
 - ensure that attendance of young carers is regularly monitored. Any issues with regards to absence from college or particular lessons are addressed through working in partnership with Personal Progress Tutors and Teaching staff,
 - will give consideration to alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend due to their caring commitments,
 - ensure our premises are accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings,
 - will follow child protection procedures regarding any young adult carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

7. Designated Member of Staff

There are designated members of staff at each EEG site for Young Adult Carers:

- Andrew Adamson Senior DSL/ Jackie Grimwood Senior Welfare Officer– One Sixth Form College
- Stuart Small Senior DSL / Lisa Bragg Senior Welfare Officer– Abbeygate Sixth Form College
- Colin Shaw Senior DSL/ Demi Irvine-Bird Welfare Officer – West Suffolk College sixth form

7.1 The designated members of staff:

- act as an emergency contact point for all relevant agencies, the Local Authority, Social Care, Health and other voluntary agencies involved in supporting the young person, this will then be passed to the student services managers to continue support,
- promote understanding and development of policies and resources to support and include young carers,
- promote awareness amongst staff of the difficulties and educational disadvantages of young people who are carers,
- The Senior Welfare Officer and PPTs will act as an advocate for young carers and refer for further support to the local Young Carers Service, who can also put families in touch with other support services,
- ensure that educational information required for the care planning process/court proceedings and Statutory Reviews is available as required and that if asked, the education perspective can be given at such meetings by the designated member of staff or an appropriate college representative.

- ensure that managers, through the designated member of staff, puts in place arrangements to promote effective communication between all those involved with Young Adult Carer
- ensure through the designated member of staff that all staff have access to training and information to enable them to recognise the indications that a child/young person has a caring responsibility, as well as increasing their understanding of such responsibilities,
- invite the relevant support workers to attend events held at the college,
- ensure that any who are children in need are identified or feel able to ask for help, are listened to and offered direct services and protection, if needed.

7.1. The Child/Young Person

- 7.1.1. It is important that a child/young person is aware that information is being recorded regarding their personal circumstances. It should be explained that the college, the Social Worker, designated member of staff and the child/young person's parent/carer are working together to promote his/her education.
- 7.1.2. It is important to establish the child/young person's view of their circumstances and identify what they want others to know.

8. Related Policies and Procedures, Statements, Guidelines and Legislation

- The Care Act 2014
- The National Carers Strategy (1999)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 28 and 29
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- DfE Advice and Guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance
- Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedure
- Single Equality Policy

9. Implications

- 9.1. A young adult carer will take on responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young adult carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young adult carer has to deal with can range from:
- Nursing care
 - Personal intimate care
 - Emotional care
 - Domestic care

- Financial care
- Child care

9.2. Eastern Education Group acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its learners, and that being a young adult carer can have an adverse effect on a young person’s education.

9.3. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young adult carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in college
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, as a result of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low Self esteem

9.4. It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about the young person being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend parents’ evenings.

Revision History – Young Adult Carers

Revision date	Reason for revision	Section number	Changes made
February 2023	EEG Update	Rubric	Policy previously existed as SAT and Local policies
		Throughout	References to the institution amended to read Eastern Colleges Group