

# **All Together Case study: Increasing support available to pupils who are young carers**

## **How Brighton Avenue Primary has helped young carers accept support more easily**

### **This case studies main focuses have been to:**

- Make it easy for Young Carers to access support
- To support families with young carers
- Create a support system in school for pupils who are young carers

### **Background on the School**

Pupils who are care givers for a family member often face difficulties and responsibilities at home that may leave them vulnerable within the school environment. We aimed to create a support system in school for our pupils who are young carers so that they felt they could access the support and advice they may need.

### **Desired outcome**

We wanted to raise the profile of Young Carers within the school community, giving them a voice so they felt listened to. It was important to us that staff, pupils and their families would all have a better understanding of what it means to be a young carer. To do this, it was crucial that Young Carers were able to access the appropriate support, which would address their well-being needs, allowing them to fulfil their potential.

### **What is the action we took?**

We identified the School Governor has having responsibility for the Young Carers, as well as a Family Support Worker that would lead on developing opportunities for the Carers, following the Young Carers policy that has been put in place. We worked closely with the Young Carers Trust, inviting them into school to deliver assemblies to raise awareness about Young Carers. Those who were registered with Young Carers Trust also took part in Fortnightly Young Carers Lunchtime meetings, which were timetabled in for pupils. We ensured that all parents and staff were informed of meetings and staff meetings were planned around identifying a

Young Carer; which the Young Carers Trust delivered. The other support strategies used for staff, pupils & families include a Young Carers suggestion box updates, information on the school newsletter/website, and a specific notice board for Young Carers. Pupils also ran a cake stall on Young Carers Awareness Day; donations of cakes were made by both staff and children – the money raised being donated to both schools YC group & Young Carers Trust.

## Outcome

- Young Carers have a positive identity within school and the wider community.
- Improved confidence of pupils within group.
- Yr 6 Young Carers have been able to voice concerns over transition.
- Both teachers & Young Carers Trust have been able to support this transition.
- Because meetings are timetabled, staff from Young Carers Trust will regularly drop in to see pupils on a meeting day.
- The school has stronger links with Young Carers Trust and the wider community, which has led to opportunities to access activities for our Young Carers.
- The school has gained the Bronze Young Carers Award; the first Primary school in Gateshead to do so.
- The group were invited to Mayors Parlour and were presented with the award by the Mayor in the Council Chamber before a full council Meeting.
- This also allowed the children to further promote and inform others of their role.
- Further evidence is being collated and the school is working towards a Silver Young Carers Award.

## What we have learned

Gaining an insight into the responsibilities that Young Carers have in their home environment has enabled the school to listen and be more aware of the needs of Young Carers, offering them and their families the appropriate support.