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# Background Information

Warwickshire Young Carers (formerly Carers Support Service) is a small independent registered charity (Charity Registration No. 1098357, Company Registration No. 4610367). Following a restructure Warwickshire Young Carers now focuses exclusively on supporting young carers and young adult carers in Warwickshire.

The organisation helps improve the lives of young carers (aged 6-25) across Warwickshire through:

* Free and confidential pastoral support
* Help to access other services and statutory funding that young carers are entitled to
* Opportunities to meet other young carers, make new friends and receive peer support
* Regular term time groups, activities and workshops
* Respite in the form of fun days out, holidays and short breaks
* Education support at school/college
* A break from caring to take time out to relax, take a break and to realise their own dreams
* Support with the transition to adulthood

We work with young carers from the age of 6 upwards, provide individual support, offer a varied programme of activities and operate young carers’ groups and consultative events where young carers and young adult carers can directly influence the provision of our service. Through development work, schools are encouraged to participate in obtaining our Warwickshire Young Carers School award to improve their support and educational outcomes.

Through a contract with Warwickshire County Council, we deliver a core service to young carers. We also have a grant from the Lottery to continue and develop our successful work in supporting young carers through their transition to adulthood and beyond.

We estimate there are potentially over 5000 young people in Warwickshire whose life is affected by caring. We currently have 2380 young carers registered with us and the number of young carers being referred to Warwickshire Young Carers continues to grow which often puts a strain on our resources and finances.