

Job description:

Senior Young Carers' Practitioner – with lead for outreach and volunteering Islington & Camden Young Carers Service

The Exchange,
Watkinson Road
Islington
N7 8DE

Hours: 37 hours per week

Grade: Grade 3 (pt. 20)

Reports to: Islington & Camden Young Carers Project Manager

Function:

To effectively assess the needs of young carers & their families and to provide direct, individual and whole family support intervention through home based visits and using community & school settings. To work with young carers and their families in a holistic way adopting a multi-agency approach to ensure the caring role and negative impact of caring are reduced for young people, to increase resilience and confidence and ensure the voice of young carers is heard.

To raise awareness & identification of young carers in a range of external settings (e.g. School, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Health, Targeted Youth Services) and support professionals and teams to recognise and respond to the needs of young carers within their own setting.

To recruit and supervise volunteer mentors, and activity workers, matching volunteers appropriately with young carers highlighted as being at risk of/experiencing social isolation, low self esteem or struggling to engage with education.

Principal Accountabilities:

1. To undertake effective whole family assessments for young carers and their families in the Boroughs of Islington & Camden, using CAF (early help assessment), Outcomes Stars and Becker Tools as assessment and evaluation tools.
2. To plan and provide a whole family approach of support to young carers and their families in their own homes and external settings (e.g. School, Youth Services), providing information, advice, practical and emotional support to improve outcomes and taking responsibility for a caseload of up to 6 families.

3. To proactively ensure the caring role and negative impact of caring are reduced for young people by increasing parenting capacity through parenting sessions, 1-1 support sessions and a range of other planned support models.
4. To ensure service users receive co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary support by establishing and maintaining effective liaison with additional support services such as CAMHS, Schools, Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care and other statutory & voluntary teams contributing to TAC/TAF/CIN/Core procedures and proactively acting as lead professional where appropriate.
5. To lead on developing and delivering outreach support within Camden, delivering bespoke awareness sessions training sessions, and targeted support to a range of professionals, teams and schools to support them to better identify and respond to the needs of young carers.
6. To support schools, targeted youth settings to develop and deliver in house support for young carer, this may include drop in support, targeted group work, PHSE lessons.
7. With the support of the PM to recruit new volunteers as needed, successfully inducting them, delivering training covering the key issues that young carers face, risk factors involved and safeguarding considerations.
8. To successfully match volunteers to the appropriate role and to individual young carers or groups where needed.
9. To provide support and supervision to a team of volunteer mentors/activity workers to ensure direct work is outcome focused and safe.
10. To provide 'duty cover' for volunteers in line with on-call procedure outlined.
11. To offer support to the team in the absence of the PM and act as senior within the team, sharing practice and experience.
12. To maintain an excellent understanding of safeguarding and comply with Family Actions procedures for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
13. To independently and confidently update a range of electronic recording systems (including InForm, eCAF) and paper systems ensuring case files and data are continually maintained to a high professional standard and within required timescales.
14. To contribute to the gathering of data for quarterly monitoring reports of the service including outputs and outcomes, ensuring that all information for your allocated caseload is up to date and accessible by management at all times.
15. To support, where needed, in group work arising from themes presented within casework and engage young carers and their families in these groups when required.
16. To comply with Family Action's Health and Safety Policy, Data Protection Policy and to protect your own and others' health, safety and welfare.

17. To comply with Family Action's Diversity & Equality Policy and our Ethical Policy in every aspect of your work and positively promote the principles of these policies amongst colleagues, service users and other members of the community.
18. 15. To work flexibly as may be required by the needs of the service and carry out any other reasonable duties as required.
16. To be able to evidence Family Action's values at all times, which underpin Family Action's mission of 'building stronger families' by:
 1. Being people focused
 2. Reflecting a 'can do' approach
 3. Striving for excellence in everything we do
 4. Having mutual respect for everyone we work with, work for and support through our services

Person Specification:

Senior Young Carers Family Worker

Islington & Camden Young Carers Service

1. Educated to level three or above with a recognised professional qualification in social work, health, education or equivalent, and evidence of a commitment to continuing learning and professional development.
2. A proven ability to work pro-actively and lead on complex family work involving children, young people and parents, in a collaborative manner, identifying support needs and planning and implementing targeted support plans to achieve positive and measurable outcomes.
3. Excellent working knowledge, understanding and awareness of the needs of young carers and their families alongside a sound understanding of good parenting and knowledge of risk factors to children and vulnerable adults with specific focus on these in relation to young carers.
4. Excellent assessment skills and ability to identify children and young people who may be at risk, their support needs and ability to plan, implement and monitor targeted support.
5. Knowledge and understanding of London Child Protection procedures, and Working Together to Safeguard Children, as well as ability to in accordance with local and organisational Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and procedures and keep up to date as required.

6. An understanding and professional approach, with the ability to use initiative creatively when leading the work with children, young people and families.
7. An understanding of and commitment to user involvement.
8. A proven ability to co-ordinate and facilitate groups addressing themes relevant to young carers and their families.
9. An excellent understanding of the impact of discrimination on the lives of those from minority ethnic communities and others that experience social exclusion, and an ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds.
10. Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. This should include the ability to keep good records and to give accurate information to a diverse user group.
11. Must be willing to work flexibly, morning/ evenings and/or at weekends as required by the service.
12. Able to evidence Family Action's values at all times, which underpin Family Action's mission of 'building stronger families' by:
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 - 2) Reflecting a 'can do' approach
 - 3) Striving for excellence in everything we do
 - 4) Having mutual respect for everyone we work with, work for and support through our services