

Children in Wales:

Evidence on the Impact of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 in relation to Carers.

Children in Wales has been carrying out work relating to young carers since 2002, when we were invited to join the Welsh Governments Carers Strategy Advisory group, to look at how young carers could be actively engaged in the Carers Strategy. Children in Wales believes that work to support young carers is vital as these young people are often hidden. Many young carers may not recognise that their role within the family is different to other children and young people, but they often carry significant physical and psychological burdens. Young carers often have little or no “me time” and can appear to lose their childhood.

Children in Wales’ current work in this area includes:

- Facilitating a Young Carers Network.
- Sitting on Welsh Government working groups to represent young carers.
- Supporting projects to work together to develop activities for young carers.
- Undertaking consultation work for Welsh Government and ensuring that young carers’ views are reflected in consultations that are relevant to children and young people.

Children in Wales welcomes the opportunity to give evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

The evidence presented was gathered from members of the Young Carers network.

There is a Young Carers service in every local authority, but services are delivered by a range of providers. While all young carers referred to a service will receive an assessment, these may vary dependent on the provider.

Torfaen services for young carers employs a social worker to work with young carers in an in-house social services young carers' service. The worker operates within the guidelines of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

The young carer's assessment is undertaken in the same way as any other assessment for a child or young person and recorded on the same paperwork, and is delivered to meet timescale of 42 working days.

All young carers have a care and support plan, which is reviewed every 6 months.

Torfaen has close contact with the other young carer's services in the area, Monmouthshire, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Newport. Each of these services works differently and none of them work in the way that Torfaen does.

Evidence gathered from the Cardiff and the Vale service, indicated that they have not seen any change in support to Young Carers' since the Act came into place. There was a recent example of a young carer being assessed by social services and then referred to the young Carers service.

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Policy Director Children in Wales.