



Referral Guidance: Young Carers Support Service Rotherham

Young Carers Support Service Rotherham supports young carers and their families living in Rotherham. We are commissioned to carry out statutory Young Carer Needs Assessments.

The service is for young carers aged 8 – 18 (until their 19th birthday), and we are unable to accept referrals for young carers outside this age bracket. We advise agencies to seek support from their Designated Safeguarding Leads or the young carers Lead Practitioner (if they have one), or approach MASH to access Early Help Services for any children aged under 8 years old who you think may be caring.

A referral to the service **may not be appropriate if:**

- Care tasks are age appropriate and do not exceed what an 'average' child of their age would undertake (e.g. a teenager helping with some housework, walking to the local shop etc),
- They are helping to support a primary adult carer with care tasks i.e. they are a minimal secondary carer,
- They are living with a family member who is ill, disabled or misusing substances but are not providing care for that person, for themselves or for siblings, or are not experiencing a significant emotional impact of that caring role,
- The caring role is limited to emotional caring that can be resolved through organisations already working with the family to hold meaningful conversations with parents,
- Their caring responsibilities are due to parenting issues or neglect, where it would be more appropriate to submit a Children's Services referral.

Making a referral

We are happy to discuss any potential referrals, if you are unsure about the level of support the family requires. Please call the service by phone or email to request a call back from our Senior Practitioner. Please ensure that you have discussed the referral with the family and young carer so they understand the service offer and consent to you making a referral on their behalf.

The referral form can be found here. When completed please password protect and email to the service, then send the password in a separate email.

When you make a referral, you will receive notification of receipt within 3 working days. The referral will then be triaged within 5 working days of the acknowledgement email being sent. Once the referral has been triaged you will be notified of the outcome via email. If accepted, we will provide an estimated time before allocation to a Young Carers Practitioner. We will not contact the family until they have been allocated. If the referral is declined, we will endeavour to provide you advice and guidance.

If the needs of a the child or young person changes after you have made a referral please ensure that you contact the team so that we have the up to date information.

E: youngcarersrotherham@family-action.org.uk **T:** 01709 224959 **Visit our website**

Referral pathway

Young Person – caring for a family member due to their ill health or disability is identified.

They are aged 8–19 years old.

(Please note under 8s will be considered for the service if excessive or inappropriate caring is taking place.)



Is caring excessive or inappropriate?

This can include;

- Medication handling
- Personal care including personal care for a sibling/s
- Excessive impact emotionally on the young carer
- Inappropriate/excessive emotional reliance on the young carer
- Young carer is failing to thrive as a result of the caring role.



No

Explore lower level support through their Lead Practitioner (if they have one) or contact Early Help Services. [Click here.](#)



Yes

Make a referral to the Young Carers Rotherham Service – [click here.](#)