



Coleg Gŵyr Abertawe
Gower College Swansea

Young Adult Carers Policy

Issue	August 2020
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Originator	Anne Pitman Learner Safeguarding and Welfare Manager
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Policy Approved By:	JNCC – August 2020 College Management Team – August 2020

If you, or someone you know, would like this document in large print, audio, electronically or in Welsh, please contact:

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Young Adult Carers (YAC) policy has been developed to recognise, promote and support students and apprentices who have caring responsibilities for a family member, partner or friend at their home. This policy is endorsed and fully supported by the College's Corporation Board and CMT. The College believes that all Young Adult Carers have the right to an education regardless of their commitment to providing care for a family member.

When a Young Adult Carer is providing care for someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need additional support to ensure they achieve their potential, Gower College Swansea recognises this and is committed to ensuring support is in place to support the Young Adult Carer in achieving their qualification.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 A Young Adult Carer is a student between 16 and 25 years who provides unpaid care to care for a family member or friend who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. At Gower College Swansea we recognise that caring can also involve physical and emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well-being. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Adult Carer is often extensive and as such, it may impact on the education of the young person.

3. Scope

- 3.1 This policy applies to all learners at the College including pupils from schools receiving some of their compulsory education at College and apprentices.
- 3.2 The College will ensure every opportunity to identify a Young Adult Carer is taken, in order for appropriate support to be put in place for them.
- 3.3 The College understands that for Young Adult Carers, the attendance policy at critical times, will need to take in to account the Young Adult Carers responsibilities. Support will be available for the Young Adult Carer to catch up on missed work.
- 3.4 The College also has made a commitment, that where there is financial crisis for YAC, the College will ensure that YAC are a priority group to be considered for financial support.

4. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Young Adults Carers policy is to ensure that all staff are clear on how to proceed should a student disclose they are a Young Adult Carer. The Policy lays out procedure and details of the Support Staff that are trained to assist and offer support.

5. Body of Policy

Gower College Swansea has a member of staff with lead responsibility for Young Adult Carers, Student Support Officer, Tamsyn Oates. Tamsyn ensures that all identified Young Adult Carers know who she is and how they can access support. The College has a strong partnership in place with the Young Adult Carers Service Providers for Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthen and can put Young Adult Carers in touch with them. The College actively seeks feedback from Young Adult Carers in order to shape and improve provision and support the College provides for them. All Young Adult Carers will be offered support with a Student Support Officer, who will have undertaken training and be able to effectively support the Young Adult Carer with their specific needs.

Gower College Swansea has a commitment to:

- Provide training on Young Adult Carers and embed this in ongoing professional development for governors, senior managers and all staff.
- Keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting Young Adult Carers.
- Ensure that Young Adult Carers know how to access support and that information about support available for Young Adult Carers and how to access it is clearly available.
- Utilising Student Induction to promote a full understanding, acceptance of Young Adult Carers and their responsibilities to all students.

During the College interview and enrolment process the College will:

- Identify if the student has caring responsibilities and if this means this Young Adult Carer has any additional needs that need to be supported.
- Establish individual plans to recognise the Young Adult Carers specific needs for any support.
- Refer Young Adult Carers to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate.

Young Adult Carers rights to privacy

- It is important that a Young Adult Carers privacy is respected and information about them or their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers.
- That information is only shared with other professional agencies for the purpose of additional support with the Young Adult Carers permission.

Transition support is in place for Young Adult Carers

- The College offers support to Young Adult Carers who transition to University or to another College and are happy to liaise on behalf of the Young Adult Carer, to share information agreed and ensure support for transiting is in place.
- Student Support Officers will identify Young Adult Carers at risk of falling into the NEET category and take appropriate actions to address this

Reducing barriers to education and learning

- The College will ensure intervention is targeted and Young Adult Carers are fully supported, according to their needs.
- Gower College Swansea will offer Young Adult Carers the use of a telephone to call home during breaks and lunch times so as to reduce worry they may have about a person they are caring for.
- Where needs permit, due to caring responsibilities Student Support Officers are able to negotiate deadlines, for course work and assessments on behalf of the Young Adult Carer.

6. Related Documents

- Attendance Policy for students
- Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

7. Welsh Language

Mae Coleg Gŵyr Abertawe yn ymrwymedig i hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg, yn unol â Safonau'r Iaith Gymraeg a Mesur y Gymraeg (Cymru) 2011.

Gower College Swansea is committed to the promotion of the Welsh language, in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Appendix 1 - Young Adult Carers Letter

Dear

In your recent interview at Gower College Swansea you told us that you were a Young Adult Carer.

As a college we recognise that being a Young Adult Carer can be a really rewarding experience but can also have some challenges that cause barriers to your learning. Whatever course you are doing, we would like you to know that you will be able to access a Student Support Officer who will be able to provide support, advice or guidance at any time of the academic year, should you need it.

This support can be just having someone to talk to, or can be someone helping you solve any problems you may have as a result of your caring responsibilities. Whatever support you need, we will do our best to help. We link with local Carers Centres and can help make referrals for you to access specialised caring support/guidance if you are not already accessing it.

Please find a leaflet enclosed which gives more information on the support we can offer you during your time in college. You can also access our Young Adult Carer information online on the Gower College website by clicking on the 'Student Life' section, then 'Support' section.

Of course, you may not every want or need support...but it's good to know it's there should you ever need it.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff about the Young Adult Carer support available you can contact one of the two Designated Leads for Young Adult Carers:

Tamsyn Oates (Monday to Wednesday)
01792 284071 Tamsyn.Oates@gcs.ac.uk

Ryan McCarley (Monday to Friday)
01792 284071 or 01792 890700 ext 2418 Ryan.Mccarley@gcs.ac.uk

Yours sincerely
Tamsyn and Ryan

Student Support Officers
Designated Lead for Young Adult Carers

Appendix 2 - Supporting a Young Adult Carer

A Young Adult Carer (YAC) is someone aged 16-25 who provides unpaid care to a family member, relative or friend. This could entail caring for someone who has a long term illness, disability, mental health problem or addiction to drugs or alcohol.

Some of the caring roles a YAC could undertake include assisting with personal care, administering medication, accompanying to medical/hospital appointments, shopping and household chores.

You do not have to be formally identified by a professional service to be classed as a YAC or even be the primary carer. Many YACs are unrecognised in their caring role.

If you are referred a Young Adult Carer please follow this procedure:

- Explain support available within the college. Encourage the student to allow you to share their caring role with their personal tutor.
- Ensure student is aware of support available for YACs outside of college.
- Encourage student to allow you to make a referral to their local YAC centre (if they are not already linked to it) and highlight the benefits e.g. respite opportunities, financial advice, emotional support, advocacy etc.
- Provide them with leaflets or highlight where to find online information on YAC services e.g. Gower College website and relevant Carers websites.
- Tick the YAC box on their personal SID page so all Support Officers and Health Advisors are aware the student has caring responsibilities. (This will not be seen by any other member of staff outside of the support team)
- Email student name to Tamsyn Oates and Ryan McCarley so we can maintain accurate figures of YAC within the college.

The 3 main Carers Services for YAC depending on their home locality are:

Swansea Carers Centre (01792 653344)

Alex Atkins: alex@swansecarerscentre.org.uk

Carmarthenshire Carers Trust Crossroads (0300 0200 002)

Mel Rees Lewis: melanie@carmarthenshirecarers.org.uk

Neath Port Talbot (01639 763030)

Emma Culleton: e.culleton@npt.gov.uk

Appendix 3 – YAC self-referral form

GOWER COLLEGE SWANSEA

YOUNG ADULT CARER SELF DISCLOSURE FORM

By completing this form you agree for your information to be shared with the Young Adult Carer support team. Please fill in as much information as you feel comfortable sharing with us. The information will be kept confidential.

You will be contacted privately by Tamsyn Oates or Ryan McCarley to discuss support available to you in Gower College Swansea. You will be able to decide what support you access, if any.

Declaration:

I would like the Young Adult Carer team in Gower College Swansea to be aware that I am a Young Adult Carer. I am able to, if I wish, discuss confidentially with them what my Caring Responsibilities are and decided together how much of this information is disclosed to my lecturers, fellow students etc.

My full name is _____

- I have applied for or enrolled on a course at
- Gorseinon
 - Llwyn Y Bryn
 - Jubilee Court
 - Tycoch

The course that I have applied for or am currently studying is:

- I provide care for
- Family member within the same house
 - Family member in a different house
 - Friend
 - Partner
 - Other

Here is some information about my caring role that I want you to know:

Here are some of my concerns about my caring responsibilities and coming to college:

Here are some examples of support that would help me whilst in college:

Signed.....

Date.....

Young Adult Carers Project Referral Form

Date of Referral:		Permission from young person to share details with Swansea Carers Centre:	YES	NO
Referred By:				
Organisation and department:		Contact Number:		
Carer Details				
Name:		D.O.B.:		
Address:				
Postcode:				
Tel:		Mobile:		
Email:				
Preferred Method of Contact:				
Carers relationship to Cared for:				

Cared For Details				
Name:		D.O.B.:		
Address:				
Postcode:				
Tel:		Mobile:		
Any Useful Background Information or Support they may require:				
This can include what support services the family or young person is involved with? What the young person is like? What support they may require and any other background information which will help us when working with the young person.				
Interested in Attending Young Adult Carers youth club?	Yes	No		

Appendix 5 – Young Adult Carers and ESTYN

The web link below takes you to the 'Provision for young carers in secondary schools, further education colleges and pupil referral units across Wales' It also refers to apprentices. The guidance is written by ESTYN.

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/thematic-reports/provision-young-carers-secondary-schools-further-education-colleges-and-pupil>

Recommendations made are:

Secondary schools, colleges and PRUs should:

- R1 Ensure that they have sound procedures to identify which of their pupils/learners have a caring role
- R2 Have a named member of staff with lead responsibility for young carers who acts as a point of contact for young carers and champions their needs
- R3 Raise staff awareness of young carers' needs
- R4 Engage with specialist services to review and improve their provision to meet the needs of young carers
- R5 Track and monitor the progress and outcomes for young carers as they currently do for other groups of vulnerable learners
- R6 Evaluate their provision for young carers with reference to the checklist in Appendix 1 or available toolkits.