

		AGENDA ITEM 5
		PAF/21/19
Committee:	People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	12 September 2019	
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Purpose:

- (i) To consider the update requested from the Young Carers Service on the first full year of operation of the new in-house service being provided for young carers (**Attachment 1**);
- (ii) To consider feedback from some members who have visited recent Young Carers events to seek views on how the service is operating;
- (iii) To consider feedback from Healthwatch Essex who have also attended some recent Young Carers events to seek views on how the service is operating;
- (iv) To consider any further information required and any next steps for further Scrutiny.

Background:

In September 2017 the Cabinet approved a Young Carers Service Redesign. The redesign created a new Young Carers Service to be delivered in-house by Essex County Council from 1 April 2018. The Cabinet Decision paper stated that the new in-house service “would deliver a more individual approach through better identification, assessment, tracking and intervention by dedicated key workers targeted at the appropriate level of need, together with improved support by Schools, additional community based support to ease the caring burden, and more significant respite opportunities for Young Carers”.

The decision was called-in but subsequently withdrawn subject to review by this scrutiny committee once the contract was up and running.

The PAF Chairman has had recent discussions with both the Cabinet Member and lead officer to help develop the format of the attached report and has requested that service user feedback be demonstrated. As part of this, the service provided details about upcoming young carers forums/events which were circulated to PAF members so that PAF members had the opportunity of attending them if they wished to obtain direct feedback from young carers. Those members who attended any of these events may wish to give their feedback to the Committee. In addition, Healthwatch Essex have attended other recent forums/events and may be able to report back on the lived experience of young carers attending those events.