

ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DENTON YOUNG CARERS POLICY (1.3)

At St Anne's Primary School we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

This policy is based on Tameside's policy and its aim is to support young carers by trying to relieve some of the worries which young carers may have about home and their school work

St Anne's School will:

- Designate a member of staff to have special responsibility for young carers and attend relevant training (SENCOs, A Mantel and S Bean)
- Make sure all the staff and pupils in our school are aware of who is the designated teacher for young carers
- Provide advice for staff on identifying and supporting young carers (see appendix 1)
- Explore opportunities within the curriculum to raise awareness of the issues facing young carers e.g. through circle time, PSHE, use of SEAL materials etc
- Be sensitive towards the needs of young carers
- Be discreet as some young carers don't want their peers to know
- Give information to the young carer about the availability of advice and support and how to access it
- Ensure every young carer has a support plan
- Pass information on to relevant colleagues e.g.class teacher, headteacher with due regard to confidentiality and child protection procedures.
- Liaise with appropriate agencies e.g. Tameside Young Carers' Project (see Appendix 2)
- Look at possible alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role
- Look for opportunities for young carers to attend out of school activities and holiday clubs
- Include information on young carers in the school prospectus

ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DENTON

YOUNG CARERS POLICY APPENDIX 1

Young Carers - Information for Staff

Young carers are children and young people up to the age of 18 who provide care for another family member who has a physical disability or illness, mental ill health, a sensory disability or a problem use of drugs or alcohol.

How do I identify a Young Carer?

Possible signs at school:

- Often late
- Often miss odd days or weeks off school for no apparent reason
- Often tired or withdrawn
- Difficulty joining in with extra curricular activities
- Isolated or a victim of bullying – either because of the situation in the family or because they lack social skills when with their peers
- Maybe confident with adults
- Under-achievement
- Homework may be of poor quality, not submitted on time or not handed in at all
- Anxiety or concern over ill/disabled relative
- Behavioural problems – there is often a big difference between the young person who seems 'mature beyond their years' in their home environment where they are very protective of a disabled relative, and the young person who takes out their pent-up frustration or stress at school.
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting an adult

How can you support young carers in school?

- Support the school's policy
- Discuss any concerns with the designated member of staff
- Use the 'Young Carers' Flow Chart as a guide (see Appendix 4)
- Help children identify their caring role in their family
- Show understanding
- Access support from the Tameside Young Carers Project as appropriate (see Appendix 2)
- Be sensitive to the needs of the young carer
- Ensure young carer has a support plan (see Appendix 3)
- Use resources information as appropriate (see Appendix 5)
- With agreement pass on any support needs and relevant information to the young carer's new school

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

APPENDIX 2

Tameside Young Carers Project

What is the Young Carers Project?

The project provides support to Young Carers who play a caring role in their family and provide care, which would usually be done by an adult. The project is run by Tameside Services for Children and Young People and is organised by the Young Carers Project Leader.

What can the Young Carers Project provide?

- Individual support – help Young Carers get a break from their responsibilities at home and work on issues about themselves or those that they care for
- Support with representation – Young Carers often need help to ensure the person they care for is getting the correct service
- Information – this includes a pack, newsletter and appropriate information on illness and disability for different age groups.
- Individual and holiday grants to enable Young Carers to have a break
- Young Carers Group – various groups provide a range of activities for all ages after school and in school holidays

APPENDIX 3
Young Carers Agreement

NAME:

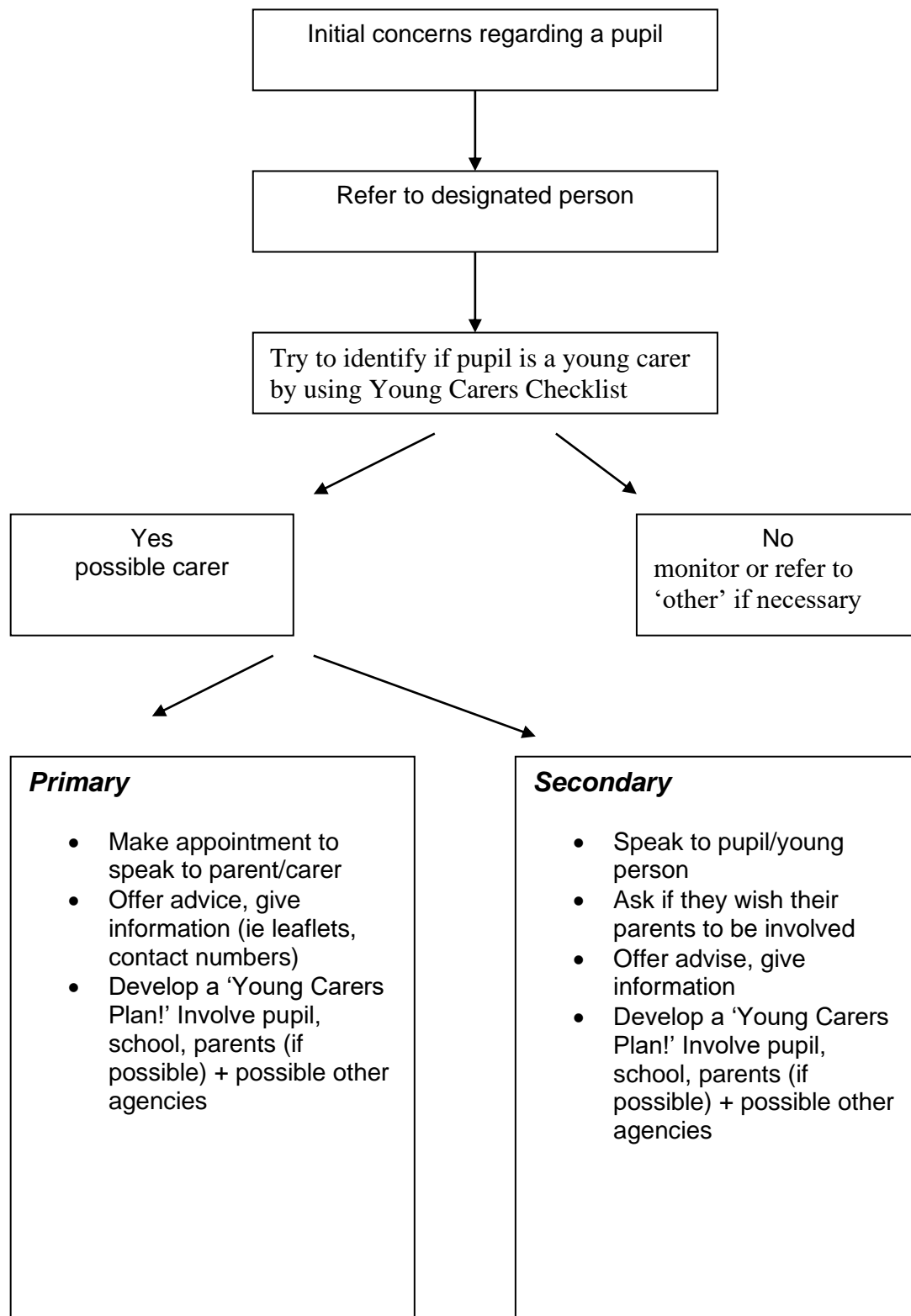
Someone close to me needs me to care for them. I can't always find time for myself and I get stressed out. These are some of the things you could do to help me at school.

- I have a lot to cope with and I want to stay in the background in class.
- I have very little time for my homework and no time if my family are in crisis.
- My _____ can get ill very quickly. This can make me scared, worried stressed and angry.
- It can be weird when _____ gets well again-everything changes and people expect me to be different.
- If I have to stay after school people at home may go without care they need.
- I need my mobile on during the day, or be able to use a phone. Knowing I can be contacted will relieve stress and help me concentrate.
- Please tell the other teachers at school, although I might not want to talk about it.
- I'm being bullied because my _____ is ill or disabled.
- I feel stressed sometimes- people are relying on me.
- I worry when I am at school. If I'm not concentrating it is for a reason. Don't make a big deal of this
- It is important to me to care for my _____ (I might still get angry about it though!)
- I am working 24/7. Sometimes I feel I've done a day's work before I even get to school.
- Don't judge my family- this is just how it is.
- Please support me in school and help me manage my work.
- My parent/s is/are deaf/blind. To communicate with them you need to use _____
- My parent is often ill at home and unable to talk to school if you phone.

My own ideas:

APPENDIX 4

YOUNG CARERS FLOW CHART



Appendix 5 Young Carers Resources

Young Carers Living in the Tameside Area

Please contact:

Tameside Young Carers Project



www.tameside.gov.uk



Hattersley Children's Centre, Melandra Crescent, Hyde SK14 3RB



Tel number: 0161 368 7722

Young Carers Living outside of Tameside

For young carers living outside of Tameside and living in one of the surrounding areas you can contact their Young Carers Projects

Manchester Carers Forum - Young and Unique (Young Carers)



www.manchestercarersforum.org.uk



Gaddum House, 6 Great Jackson Street, Manchester, M15 4AX



0161 819 2226

Oldham Young Carers Project



www.positive-steps.org.uk



Medina Place, 80 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DJ



0161 621 9400

Derby City Young Carers



www.derby.gov.uk



2 Stanley Road, Derby, DE24 0EX



01332 641 017

Signpost Young Carers (Stockport)



www.signpostforcarers.org.uk



The Heaton Centre, Thornfield Road, Heaton Moor, SK4 3LD



0161 442 0442