

## Young Carers Pledge

At Yeovil College we believe that all children and young people have a right to an education, regardless of their home situations. Yeovil College recognises that all young carers will face diverse and often complex issues requiring different levels of support. We will endeavour to work with them to ensure that we provide appropriate support, which meets their specific needs, while they are learning. We hope our Young Carers' Pledge will help to support young carers in both their personal and college lives.

### Who are Young Carers?

- Young Carers are children and young people who provide social and emotional support to a relative, which is additional to that appropriate for their age. This could include support for someone living at home or outside of the home. The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, or grandparent and have one or more of the following:
  - alcohol and/or drug dependency
  - learning difficulties or disabilities
  - long term illness
  - mental health issues
  - physical disability
- Some of the responsibilities a Young Carer may have could include:
  - budgeting and paying bills
  - providing emotional support
  - carrying out housework or other work in the home
  - giving or prompting medication/injections
  - providing personal care (for example bathing, dressing, feeding)
  - looking after younger children

Having responsibility for this additional care can leave a Young Carer feeling overwhelmed with worry and feelings of isolation. It may be difficult for them to have a social life and they may have few opportunities for socialising.

### Indicators

- Signs that may indicate that a young person is a carer can include:
  - being consistently late or absent
  - known illness or disability in the family
  - know problems within the family setting
  - academic performance below potential
  - behavioural and or emotional difficulties
  - homework/assignments often uncompleted or missed deadlines
  - tiredness or poor concentration
  -

## **Our Pledge**

- We are aware that being a young carer can result in additional barriers which can hinder learning and success. With the permission of the young carer, we will make appropriate college staff aware that they have additional responsibilities which could affect their college life.
- We will inform the young carer of the support available in college and from any other appropriate external agencies. This support will be put in place as soon as the need is identified.
- A student, who has not disclosed that they have caring responsibilities but may be exhibiting any of the above indicators, will be approached sensitively by a member of the curriculum team and, where appropriate, a referral made to the Student Support Services Team. Any disclosures made will be treated respectfully and within the college's confidentiality protocol and procedure.

## **Support for Young Carers**

- Yeovil College has a team of Support Advisers who can offer social and emotional support. They can also refer to appropriate outside agencies, if required, or work alongside external support which may already be in place.
- Other areas of support available in college include Learning Link who provide additional learning support, Student and Customer Services Team who can advise on financial support and travel and the Chaplaincy Team.
- The College is recognised for its work with young people and has been awarded the Buttle (UK) Quality Mark, You're Welcome Accreditation and Health FE Status.

## **Key Contacts:**

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