



## CHILDREN SERVICES TEENY CARERS

Families and staff had begun to identify young carers under the age of 5.

Earlier identification enables a supported transition to primary school and access to young carer support at the earliest point, avoiding children and families reaching crisis point before seeking help - reducing the need for referrals to other services.

South Ayrshire Council are the only local authority in the UK who are actively identifying young carers under the age of 5 (teeny carers), meaning developmentally appropriate early support and intervention can be provided to ensure these children keep pace with their peers who are not caring. This means young carers are less likely to be impacted by adversity or trauma, reducing inequalities, and mitigating impacts on their journey into adult life.



**teeny carers  
in EYC  
identified  
since August  
2024**

- ✓ The Improvement and Innovation fund is supporting a two-year post to raise awareness of teeny carers with colleagues and families, and embed identification within every day practice of Health Visitors, Early Years staff and Social Work.
- ✓ This initiative also works towards reducing stigma associated with young carers by normalising identification at the earliest point.
- ✓ Will ensure all pre-5 staff are trained in identification of young carers and embedding this into every day practice will reduce/eliminate young carers being missed.
- ✓ This work directly contributes to South Ayrshire values in whole family support, and principles of GIRFEC and UNCRC.
- ✓ This ground-breaking work has been recognised as national best practice by the Scottish Government and Carers Trust.