



South Ayrshire
**COMMUNITY
PLANNING**
Partnership



CHILDREN SERVICES YOUNG CARERS IN SCHOOLS

Based on the statistic that 1 in 5 children in a class had a caring role, there is a hidden population of almost 97% young carers, with the majority attending school.

Education staff were surveyed, revealing a lack of training or awareness of young carers.

Our aim was to collaborate with Education colleagues to:

- improve communication between HSCP and schools.
- improve knowledge/understanding of young carers.
- identify the hidden population of young carers.
- ensure the right support is provided at the right time for all young carers.
- challenge stigma, and associated stigmas, of young carers.
- ensure schools are a welcoming and supportive environment for young carers.
- help young carers to thrive and reach their potential.

South Ayrshire is the first and only local authority in the UK to mandate training for all education staff. A short video was produced and is shown to all staff at the beginning of the school year. It explains the legislation, who a young carer is, local and national support, and processes.



- ✓ All schools identified a Young Carer Champion.
- ✓ To challenge stigma and raise awareness, we increased visibility in schools using various methods including branded lanyards ; young carer badges ; noticeboards ; and including policy in school handbooks and on website.
- ✓ Schools have reported confidence and engagement of young carers has increased beyond measure.
- ✓ School communities are kinder and more understanding – peers now understand that sometimes their friends who are young carers can't do the same things as them.
- ✓ Engagement in learning has increased because young carers know that staff and peers now understand them.