REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
25 JUNE 2014

SUBJECT: Care.Fair.Share SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT CAMPAIGN

BY: HEAD OF INTEGRATED CHILDREN’S SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report is provided to apprise members of the current campaign by the Scottish Youth Parliament focusing on young carers.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III D (2) of the Council’s Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:-
(i) considers the content of the report;
(ii) notes the campaign and the role of MSYP John Thain in Moray; and
(iii) invites John Thain to present to a future Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Care.Fair.Share campaign was selected by the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) as the annual National campaign at the October 2013 National Sitting by the SYP membership. Through the campaign the SYP is lobbying the Scottish Government to ease the financial strain facing young carers.

3.2 There is estimated to be over 100,000 young carers in Scotland, with a possible 1,200 in Moray. The SYP state that young people who care for ill relatives are saving the state £1.6 billion (Carers UK figures).

3.3 Due to their caring role young carers can experience challenges and disadvantages that many of their peers do not. Young carers often make difficult sacrifices and compromises due to their caring responsibilities and associated financial uncertainty.
3.4 Student carers experience a particularly difficult set of challenges in having to balance education, care, and, often, work. Sixty percent of student carers surveyed combine paid work, caring, and studying; and 70% of young carers believe their education has been compromised by their caring role (Learning with Care, National Union of Students Report, 2013).

3.5 The ‘Care.Fair.Share’ campaign is pursuing several avenues to ease the financial strain faced by young carers, including:
   - Addressing anomalies in the administration of the Educational Maintenance Allowance that result in many young carers losing their EMA entitlement because of missed attendance caused by their caring role.
   - Additional funding and bursary opportunities for young carers struggling to afford further education due to their caring responsibilities.
   - Alleviating the cost of travel for young carers between school, work, and home to fulfil their caring and educational responsibilities.

3.6 In Moray the campaign is being co-ordinated by MSYP John Thain, a young carer from Buckie. John is organising several Moray based events to raise awareness of the campaign and elicit support.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Council / Community Planning Priorities
   This report is in line with Community Planning priority 2 – Ambitious and confident children and young people, and Council priority 4 – More of our children have a better start in life and are ready to succeed

(b) Policy and Legal
   The report outlines how the campaign can contribute to the national vision for Young Carers as outlined in “Getting it Right for Young Carers: The Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010 – 2015” and the aims of Education and Social Care Integrated Children’s Services as stated in the Service Plan 2014/15.

(c) Financial implications
   There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

(d) Risk Implications
   There have been no risk implications identified.

(e) Staffing Implications
   No staffing implications have been identified.

(f) Property
There are no direct property implications associated with this report.

(g) Equalities

The ‘Care.Fair.Share’ campaign will assist in meeting the duties under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between groups who share a characteristic protected under the Equality Act 2010 and those who have not.

(h) Consultations

Katrina McGillivray, Senior Human Resources Adviser, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, Margaret Forrest, Legal Services Manager (Litigation & Licensing) and Don Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Young carers are a potentially disadvantaged group who do an admirable and valuable service for society. In Moray we are advancing our support for young carers and endeavouring to ensure they gain the most from their education, through GIRFEC, the post of Principal Teacher, Young Carers and enhanced links between partner agencies.

5.2 The objectives of the Care.Fair.Share campaign target three key areas that will make a positive change for young carers, particularly those in the difficult stage of transition from school to higher education/paid employment.

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Background Papers:
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