Young carers and their families


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Abstract

Young Carers are children and young people who provide care for an ill or disabled parent or relative in the community, usually within their own home. They perform many of the same domestic, caring and other duties as adult carers, but often without the recognition and support which many adult carers receive.

This is the first comprehensive text on young carers and their families. It examines how young carers are perceived, their varied situations, their rights and needs, and uses case studies to illustrate the dynamics of experiences and relationships. It discusses the effects of caring on the child’s health and psychosocial development. It considers the policy and legal context for young carers and their families. In particular, the book considers the role and responsibilities of welfare professionals and organisations, offering guidance on how to implement policy to offer the best support. The experiences of young carers in other countries are also considered.

Key Features:
A topical book for all involved in child and family welfare
Case studies highlight the dynamics of experiences and relationships
Promotes improvement of policy and practice
Authors founded internationally renowned Young Carers Research Group

This is a valuable book for all student and practising social workers and community care workers and those involved in service planning and provision. It is essential reading for teachers and for students studying health and social care, social policy, sociology and nursing.

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Carers Trust found that the majority of those that are identified as young carers still don’t get an assessment of their needs or access to the support they and their families need. The consequences can be serious and long lasting. ‘Hidden from view’ also found that young carers achieve on average 9 grades lower than their peers at GCSE which can have consequences for their long term economic prospects and life choices. It is clear therefore that we need to do more to support young carers. With the Care Bill also under consideration by Parliament, this is an ideal opportunity to ensure that yo...

Although many young carers will feel it’s their duty to help look after their parents, the fact is, these additional responsibilities have a significant impact on their own development, education and relationships. So should we really be expecting children to take on the burden of a seriously ill or disabled parent to the detriment of their own lives? Are we ruining their future? Consequences of caring. As a result of the parent's disability, these families are usually living from benefits and facing extreme financial difficulties. A third of the parents in studies were receiving some form of additional care from social or mental health services but another third had no support whatsoever. It had been cancelled because families felt it was either poor quality, too intrusive or just too expensive. Young carers are children and young people, under the age of 18, who look after someone in their family who has an illness, a disability, or is affected by mental ill-health or substance misuse. They take on tasks that would normally be done by an adult. Generally helping around the house doesn't mean that you're a young carer; they do much more, including some or all the following: practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping. physical care, such as lifting, helping a parent on stairs or with physiotherapy. personal care, such as dressing, washing, helping with toileting