

## Young Adult Carers Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Young Adult Carers (YAC) policy has been developed to recognise, promote and support students and apprentices who have caring responsibilities for a family member, partner or friend at their home.
- 1.2 Petroc believes that all Young Adult Carers have the right to an education regardless of their commitment to providing care for a family member.
- 1.3 When a Young Adult Carer is providing care for someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse addiction, they may need additional support to ensure they achieve their potential.
- 1.4 The college is committed to ensuring support is in place to assist Young Adult Carers achieve their qualification, enabling them to progress to employment, higher levels of education and/or further training.

### 2. Definitions

- 2.1 A Young Adult Carer is a student between 16 and 25 years who provides unpaid care to a family member or friend who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse addiction.
- 2.2 Young Adult caring responsibilities may involve providing physical and personal care, emotional support or undertaking practical household tasks.. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Adult Carer is often extensive and as such, it may impact on the education of the young person.

### 3. Scope

- 3.1 This policy applies to all learners aged 16-25 at the College.
- 3.2 The College will ensure every opportunity to identify a Young Adult Carer is taken, in order for appropriate support to be put in place.
- 3.3 The College understands that for Young Adult Carers attendance levels will need to take into account caring responsibilities. If this is the case, support from academic teams will be available for the Young Adult Carer to catch up on any missed work or programme content.
- 3.4 The College has made a commitment that where there is a financial crisis it will ensure that Young Adult Carers are one of the priority groups of individuals to be considered for financial support.

### 4. Statement of Purpose

- 4.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that staff understand our duty of care to Young Adult Carers, the support that is on offer and how to proceed should a student disclose they are a Young Adult Carer. The Policy details the procedure and the support staff that are trained to assist and offer help.

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## 5. Body of Policy

- 5.1 Petroc staff with lead responsibility for Young Adult Carers are: the Wellbeing and Support Team Leader, the Head of Student Experience, and the Deputy Principal Education and Learners.
- 5.2 The College has a strong local partnership in place with the Young Adult Carers Service Providers and is able to work collaboratively with external services to provide the most appropriate support.
- 5.3 The College actively seeks feedback from Young Adult Carers in order to shape and improve the provision and support it provides.
- 5.4 All Young Adult Carers will be offered support by the Wellbeing Support Team. This team has undertaken training and is able to effectively support a Young Adult Carer.
- 5.5 Petroc has a commitment to:
- Provide training regarding the identification, definition and support available for Young Adult Carers and embed this in ongoing professional development for governors, senior managers and all staff.
  - Keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation/guidance affecting Young Adult Carers.
  - Ensure that Young Adult Carers know how to access information and support.
  - Promote understanding of Young Adult Carers to all learners. within the induction period and throughout the year!
  - Identify if an applicant has caring responsibilities and if they have any additional needs that require support.!(Appendix 1 supporting a YAC)
  - Establish how best to support the learner and record the strategies to be used on a Learning Inclusion Plan (LIP), ensuring this is shared with the team around the learner.
  - Ensure that a referral to the Wellbeing Support Team (WST) is offered to the learner. The WST, in turn, will offer a referral to any external, specialist support agency as appropriate
- 5.6 Young Adult Carers' rights to privacy:
- It is important that a Young Adult Carer's privacy is respected and information about them or their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers.
  - Information is only shared with other professional agencies for the purpose of additional support with the Young Adult Carers permission.
- 5.7 Transition support in place for Young Adult Carers:
- Before the Induction period, any YAC identified through the application process, will be offered support to transition into college.
  - The College will also offer support to Young Adult Carers who transition to University or to another College.
- 5.8 Reducing barriers to education and learning:
- The College will ensure intervention is targeted and Young Adult Carers are fully supported, according to their needs.

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- Where relevant, support will be provided for young adult carers who are affected by their extenuating circumstances.

**6. Related Policies**

- Attendance and Punctuality Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy

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## Appendix 1: Procedures for Supporting a Young Adult Carer

A Young Adult Carer (YAC) is someone aged 16-25 who provides unpaid care to a family member, relative or friend. This could include caring for someone who has a long-term illness, disability, mental health problem or addiction. The caring responsibilities a YAC could undertake include assisting with personal care, administering medication, accompanying family members to medical/hospital appointments, shopping and household chores.

A young person does not need to be formally identified by a professional service to be classed as a YAC or be the primary carer. Many YACs are unrecognised in their caring role.

If a Young Adult Carer is identified by any staff member at the college, please follow this procedure:

- Encourage the learner to give consent for a referral to be made to the Wellbeing Support Adviser Team, who can provide both wellbeing support and a referral to a specialist external agency if appropriate. To do this, staff must use the SafeGuarding and Wellbeing Referral 'LifeBuoy' icon on myPetroc.
- Explain to the learner the support available within the college, such as potentially extending assignment deadlines, support with catching up on missed work, or from our Wellbeing Team. Encourage the student to consent to you sharing their caring role responsibilities with their teaching teams and Personal Development Coach by recording this on their PR tab. .
- Add the Young Adult Carer icon to the learner's myPetroc portal. To do this select PR tab > add note > under 'Academic Staff Notes' select 'Young Adult Carer > complete brief details of responsibilities as guided below > click Add > select key staff to share the information with, i.e.. those that form the team around the learner and see/teach them each week.

Exemplar entry which avoids recording sensitive medical information:

'XXXXX has shared that they currently support the care of a parent with an illness/ disability and have additional responsibilities at home, including caring for young siblings and helping with additional household tasks.'

- Following discussion with the learner, create or add to an existing LIP, identifying any barriers to learning that relate to being a YAC and the strategies to be put in place to mitigate any risk to the learner attaining successful outcomes.

If referred to the Wellbeing Support Team, a nominated Wellbeing Support Adviser will:

- Highlight the benefits the learner can access from the ' local YAC centre, e.g. respite opportunities, financial advice, emotional support, advocacy etc.
- Provide them with leaflets or highlight where to find online information on YAC services e.g. Petroc website and relevant Carers websites.
- Ensure the Young Adult Carer icon is visible on myPetroc so that staff are aware the learner has caring responsibilities.

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- Liaise with academic teams to support the learner's successful outcomes.

The 2 main Carers Services for Young Adult Carers depending on their home locality are:

**Young Carers (supporting young people in Torrington, North Devon and Mid Devon)**

01237 420130

**Devon Carers** (03456 434 435)

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