



## **RCT Young Carer Card Guidance notes and FAQ's for Trusted Referrers**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Welsh Government funded national card scheme has been developed as a partnership between Carers Trust Wales and all local authorities across Wales, working to test and develop a nation-wide approach to improving the experiences young carers have in health, social care and education settings.

The YC Card or Young Carers Card will provide photo-identification for any young carer aged under 18 who would like one. This will enable them to easily identify themselves to professionals without having to share personal details about their caring role. It is hoped that the card will give young carers the confidence to ask for help or understanding from professionals like teachers, doctors and pharmacists in a discreet way.

As we develop the scheme in Rhondda Cynon Taf, we hope that the YC Card will also include access to local discounts and benefits in recognition of the significant contributions made by our local young carers.

Please remember that young carers don't need to have a YC Card to receive the support that they have a right to and deserve as a young carer.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

If you are a person supporting or working with a Young Carer, you are considered a 'trusted referrer' so you can apply for a Young Carer Card on behalf of a Young Carer by completing the:

**Application form for a Young Carer Card**  
***To be completed by a Trusted Referrer***

Trusted referrers are usually professionals who know the Young Carer and can verify that they are eligible to apply for a YC Card.

Trusted referrers may work for a range of agencies including schools, social care, youth work and health.

You will need to ask the young carer to gain consent for the YC card from their parent or guardian.

You can complete the application form with the young carer and then return it together with their photo.

## Supporting Resources

### If you are a teacher or education professional

Many young carers can struggle to keep up with some aspects of their education, including:

- Being on time for school if there are caring duties they need to carry out before school hours.
- Missing lessons, to tend to the person they care for or attend health appointments.
- Not completing homework as they are busy with caring responsibilities whilst at home.

We will be working with school and college carers' champions to develop ways of using the YC card in educational establishments.

For more information about the YC card and its benefits in school environments and how you can help to support young carers at school or college, please use the following links developed by Carers Trust:

<https://carers.org/around-the-uk-our-work-in-wales/ycid>

<https://carers.org/resources/all-resources/114-resources-for-teaching-professionals-to-support-young-carers-in-schools->

Further resources are also included with this pack.

### If you are a healthcare professional

The YC card is there to help you to identify who might be a young carer, and the resources will help you to understand what their extra responsibilities might include. We hope that this will allow you to effectively tailor the care you provide to them.

You can find more information about the YC card and its benefits to your relevant profession by following this link developed by Carers Trust:

<https://carers.org/around-the-uk-our-work-in-wales/ycid>

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Young Carer Card?**

The Young Carer Card is a photo card issued by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council to Young Carers age under 18 who have registered with the Young Carers Information Service and have requested a card.

The Young Carer Card verifies that person shown on the card is a Young Carer with caring responsibilities.

The Young Carer Card is free and it lasts for 2 years, or until the Young Carer turns 18, whichever is sooner.

### **Who is the Young Carer Card for?**

The Young Carer Card is for Young Carers. A Young Carer is someone who helps to look after a friend or family member who cannot manage on their own because they have a disability, physical or mental illness or are affected by substance or alcohol misuse.

You can apply for the Young Carer Card if you live in Rhondda Cynon Taf

### **What is the Young Carer Card for?**

The Young Carer Card shows that the cardholder is a Young Carer. You can use the card to show that you help to care for someone. In the future we hope that the card can be used to access local discounts

## **Terms and conditions**

Before applying for a Young Carer Card, please read these terms and conditions:

- The Young Carer Card is provided to unpaid Carers age under 18 who live in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- Young Carers will be registered with the Young Carer Information Service when they are issued with a card.
- If the application for a Young Carer Card has not been submitted by a Trusted Referrer, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council may occasionally need to ask the Young Carer or parent/ guardian to provide information or evidence of the Young Carer's caring role, such as a letter from a doctor, school or other appropriate supporting evidence.
- The Young Carer Card is valid for 2 years from the date of issue, or until the Young Carer turns 18, whichever is sooner, and will be reviewed every 2 years.

If a Young Carer's caring role has ended, the parent/ guardian or Young Carer must notify Rhondda Cynon Taf Council of the change. The Young Carer may carry on using the card for a further 3 months then the card must be returned to Rhondda Cynon Taf Council.

- Rhondda Cynon Taf Council reserve the right to change the appearance and conditions of the Young Carer Card, or withdraw the Young Carer Card scheme at any time.

- If the Young Carer Card is lost or misplaced, please contact the Carers Service on 01443 281463 and a replacement card can be issued.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council reserve the right to change the terms and conditions of this agreement at any time. If we do so, we will notify you in writing at least 30 days before making any such changes, providing details of the changes made.

**Who do I contact if I have more questions?**

Phone: 01443 281463 or 07824496485

Email: [YoungCarersSupportTeam@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:YoungCarersSupportTeam@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**OR**

Carers Support Project  
11-12 Gelliwastad Road  
Pontypridd  
CF37 2BW