



Seminar & Information Exchange on Young People with Caring Responsibilities

Current Practice, Future Direction

Morning Seminar – Tuesday September 25th 2012

Facilitated by Care Alliance Ireland,
CROSSCARE (Carer Support) and The Carers Association.

Location: The Richmond Room, The Carmichael Centre,
North Brunswick Street, D7.

For directions to the venue see
<http://www.carmichaelcentre.ie/Location>

Time : 9:30am-1pm - followed by lunch

Background

For several years, agencies working with Family Carers in Ireland have articulated their concern about the unmet needs of young carers. The recently published National Carers Strategy identifies Young Carers as a key area for intervention.

“Young carers are children and young persons under 18 who provide, or intend to provide, care, assistance or support to another family member. They carry out, often on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks and assume a level of responsibility which would usually be associated with an adult.” (Becker)

Internationally, there is considerable evidence documenting the issues faced by these young carers. When a young person provides long term high levels of care to a family member there can often be negative impacts on the young person’s welfare. These can include negative educational, social and emotional impacts. Not all impacts are negative and sharing some level of care with one’s family can bring positive benefits to the young person. There is little provision of specific young carer supports in Ireland, but there are a number of local initiatives with promising results. At an interagency meeting in February 2011 a number of agencies with an interest in young carers came together to find out what is going on around the country for young carers and to share their ideas. This was followed by a seminar in September 2011. ([Click here to read report](#))

We committed to organising a follow up seminar to facilitate the further development of this evolving area. Since 2011 the first ever Outreach Officer for Young Carers has been appointed. In addition, Irish Census data is helping us quantify the number of young carers reported. New research and practice initiatives and interventions have also been developed.

Who is this seminar aimed at?

This seminar will be of interest to those who work with young people and their families in a range of settings including:

- Home School Liaison Teachers
- Counsellors
- Child Care Workers
- Social Workers
- Youth Workers
- Project Workers
- Family Support Workers
- others

Key Questions for the Seminar

- How do we as educationalists and health and social care professionals identify and engage with young carers?
- What models of good practice are currently being used?
- How can we support young carers within existing resources?

Anticipated Outcomes of the Seminar

- A better understanding of issues facing young carers
- Connection with leading practitioners in this emerging area
- Enhanced collaboration between organisations

Details

- Tea/coffee available on arrival at 9:30am.
- A collection of research and practice resources will be available to view/ take away on the day.

There is no fee for attending this seminar.

Registration Form available online. [Click Here](#)

Programme

Chairing the proceedings will be Kevin O'Boyle, Chair, Care Alliance Ireland.

9:30 am	Registration/Networking	
10:00 am	Welcome	
10.05am	Young Carer of the Year	Amanda Norris
10:15am	Young Carers and Child Protection	Dr. Geoffrey Shannon
10:45am	Coffee Break – Opportunity to Network	
11.15am	Presentation by The Carers Association	Gary Rutherford and Lee Anne Greville.
11:45pm	Improving Outcomes for Young Carers – a practice perspective from Gloucestershire young Carers	Mandy Bell
12.30pm	Update on Service Initiatives and European Young Carers Project.	Liam O'Sullivan
12.45pm	Facilitated Panel Discussion	
12.55pm	Where to from here?	Nora Kirrane/ Liam O'Sullivan
1pm	Finish - followed by lunch	

Speaker Biographies

Amanda Norris – is 19 years old and was the joint recipient with her brother Sam, of the Young Carer of the Year Award 2012. Born in Limerick City, Amanda and her family are now living in Finglas and she supports her mother in caring for her two siblings with special needs aged 6 & 15 years. Amanda is studying Health & Community Services in All Hallows College, Dublin.

Dr Geoffrey Shannon is a solicitor and Special Rapporteur for Child Protection. He is the Chairman of the Adoption Authority of Ireland and the author of *Child Law*, a major new work of over 1,400 pages on the law relating to children. This book has been described by the Chief Justice as “an exceptional work” and the Irish Law Times as “an outstandingly erudite tome in an area of law of increasing complexity written by an author who has an encyclopaedic knowledge unsurpassed in this area of law”. Geoffrey has been selected by the European Expert Organising Committee as the Irish expert member of the *Commission on European Family Law*. In 2010, he was appointed by the Minister for Children along with Norah Gibbons to conduct a review of 196 children who have died in the care of the state in the last ten years. The review was published in June 2012 and has been described as a watershed in the area of child protection in Ireland. Geoffrey is the recipient of the Canon Maurice Handy Award for the period January 2006 to December 2007. He is also the recipient of an Award by the Chamber of Commerce for Outstanding Contribution to Children. Last year he was presented with the FLAC Contribution to Public Interest Law Award which is made to a person who in the opinion of FLAC has made a significant contribution to the area of public interest law.

Gary Rutherford – was appointed by The Carers Association as Young Carers Outreach & Development Coordinator earlier this year. Gary works with Lee Anne Greville as part of their Young Carers Project team working to research and develop identification and referral pathways for our young people with caring responsibilities; provide an Information and Awareness programme in schools; and develop a programme of supports that responds to the spectrum of needs which young carers identify. He holds a BA (Hons) in Social Care and has a background in community development and disability services.

Lee Anne Greville has worked with The Carers Association since early 2009 on various projects such as lobbying and advocacy campaigns; The Carers Association Membership Programme; The Carers of the Year Awards; various events; online communications; and has recently put together Ireland's first dedicated website for young Carers. Lee Anne herself was a young Carer starting her caring role at the age of 12.

Mandy Bell has worked in the development of young carers services since 1997 and is currently on the Leadership Team at Gloucestershire Young Carers. Her experience includes improving support to young carers through the development of a whole family approach supported by partnerships with health, education, social care and youth support services and her current projects include the development of services for young substance misuse carers. She has a particular expertise in the impact of parental mental ill health on dependent children and in 2010 she was awarded a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship to undertake a fact finding trip to Australia to learn from their experience of supporting these families. Gloucestershire Young Carers is an independent charity supporting young carers from 6 – 25 years of age.

Care Alliance Ireland

We work with organisations to provide better information and supports to Family Carers. We provide them with opportunities to collaborate on initiatives including *National Carers Week*, a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary *Family Carer Research Group*, and joint policy submissions. We act as a distribution channel for information on Family Carer issues. We actively encourage collaboration in all our projects. We provide cohesion to those organisations working to support Family Carers. We commission relevant research that supports focussed and quality interventions in the lives of Family Carers. By focussing on these discrete functions (research, policy, information, and collaborative ventures) we enable more of our member's funds to go directly to coal face services. For further information contact: Liam O'Sullivan 01 874 7776 or 087 207 3265. E-mail: ndo@carealliance.ie



Crosscare -Carer Support – supports Family Carers in North Dublin and has been working with family carers since 1993. Our aims are to improve the quality of life of family carers who are often vulnerable and under stress, to provide opportunities to help carers break social isolation and to provide training and information for carers to meet their needs.

Our services include; support groups, counselling, 1-1 informal support, respite breaks, education and information to family carers including a particular focus on male carers and parents of children with special needs. We continue to work collaboratively to respond to the needs of young carers in Finglas. For further information contact Nora Kirrane on 01 836 0011 or nkirrane@crosscare.ie



The Carers Association is Ireland's national charity for and of Family Carers in the Home. Our mission is to provide family Carers with emotional and practical supports; to promote the interests of family carers and those receiving care in the home through effective partnership, lobbying and advocacy and to gain recognition and social justice for carers invaluable contribution to Irish society.

We reach Family Carers through our FREEFONE National Care Line 1800-24-07-24 and drop-in Resource Centres in North Dublin (Blanchardstown), South Dublin (Harold's Cross), Clonmel, Cork, Kilkenny, Limerick, Mullingar, Sligo, Tullamore, Tralee, Waterford and Wexford and through Outreach Service Projects in Clondalkin, Kildare, North Tipperary, Mayo, Laois, Roscommon, and Wicklow co-ordinated by a National Office in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Our services and supports include a National Care Line, Support Groups, Advocacy and Lobbying, Home Respite Service, Information, Membership, Resource Centres, Outreach Services and Training.

