

Practice example: Screening – Liverpool young carers care pathway

Background

Young carers can face a range of challenges and need support to help them thrive. If young carers are caring for a parent, then professionals working with the parent are well placed to identify their needs and refer them for support. However, many professionals working with adults do not feel confident in doing this.

Because of this, Liverpool developed a clear care pathway for Adult Social Care staff to undertake young carers' assessments. As part of this, they established a system in which young carers assessments were taken to a multi-agency provider panel that could make referrals beyond social care services.

This process was then updated during the course of the 'Think child, think parent, think family' project. This care pathway was welcomed by staff and also won an award.

Intended outcomes

The intended outcomes of the revised care pathway were to:

- clarify the process for assessing and referring young carers
- make links with the Common Assessment Framework and Team Around the School processes
- facilitate young carer's access to support services such as education welfare, educational psychology, outreach support and Barnardo's Action with Young Carers.

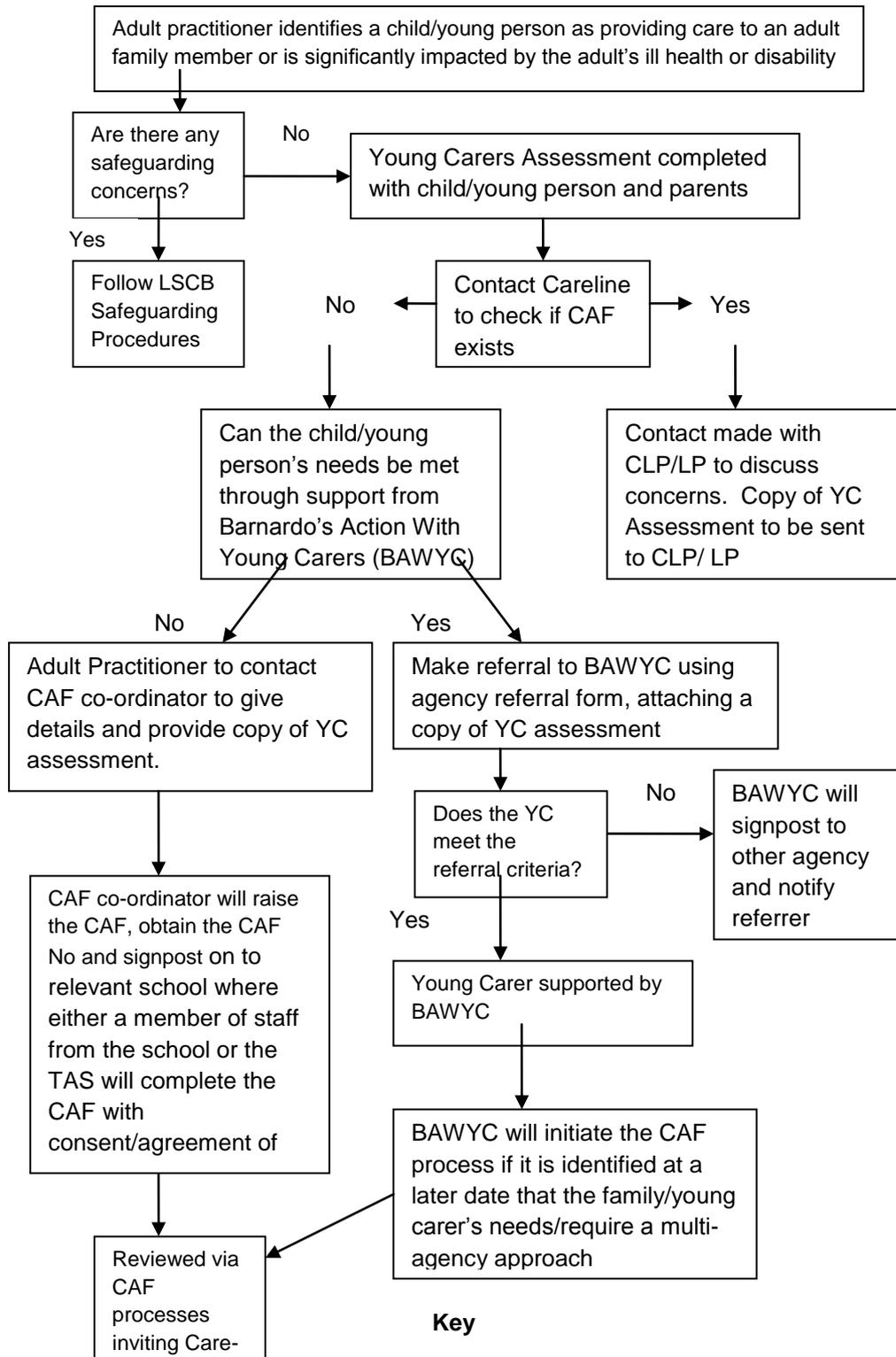
Practical actions

A group was convened to look at the new referral route for young carers, working closely with the CAF Co-ordinator in Liverpool.

What actually happened

The group developed the care pathway shown below:

Care Pathway for Young Carers in Liverpool



Key

- Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**
- Team Around The School (TAS)**
- CAF Lead Professional (CLP)**
- CAF Lead (CL)**
- Liverpool Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)**
- Barnardo's Action with Young Carers (BAWYC)**
- Young Carer (YC)**

The new care pathway has the following key difference from the old pathway:

- A referral is now automatically made to Barnardo's young carers' service.
- Consistent checks are carried out.
- If the young person does not have a CAF already, then contact is made with the CAF Co-ordinator to arrange for a CAF to be undertaken.
- Resource allocation on the basis of the needs identified in the CAF is now undertaken by Teams Around the School. These teams have a wider representation of professionals on them so should hopefully have the effect that young people have access to a wider range of services, and are more likely to receive the service appropriate to them.

Advice for others

Involving the CAF coordinator was key to ensuring successful integration of young carers' assessments and CAF.

Training is needed to support workers in putting the new pathway in to practice.