

Dear Parent/Guardian and Young Carer

### **Young Carer Card Background Information**

You might have seen some publicity about the Lincolnshire Young Carer Card lately and might be wondering what it's all about and whether your child(ren)/ward(s) might want or need one. This letter is more information about the card and its purpose. The card was developed in response to one young carer's experiences which we found to be repeated across Lincolnshire. Because young carers are under 18 and not usually named as next of kin, professionals sometimes do not feel they can share information with them either because of their age or a concern about confidentiality and consent. The card does not give the young carer an automatic right to information but is a useful tool, so that if the professional working with their cared-for feels it is appropriate and helpful to share information, they could.

The three main areas where consent can be given are:

1. Medication – this means that the professional can share information about the effects that medication can have either physically or mentally, or about safe handling or anything that is relevant and will help the young carer and their family
2. Diagnosis – this should mean that information about the cared-for's condition can be shared, either background general information about that condition or maybe more detail about living with or managing that condition
3. Prognosis – what might happen in the future, how the condition might or might not develop and perhaps that there could be good days and bad days etc
4. This is a blank section for you to fill in anything else you feel might be useful eg access to medical records, or collecting medication

Completed forms are held in the AYC office, in a locked cabinet and electronically on an AYC laptop which is password protected and locked away when not in use. A digital photograph is needed, so one can be chosen that you are happy to use on the card; please email it to [u2ayc@carersfederation.co.uk](mailto:u2ayc@carersfederation.co.uk) with the young carer's name in the subject line.

Thanks very much and if you have any more questions, please get in touch

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