

# Young Carers Development Trust

## Impact Report 2020



# Foreword

## Inspiring Young Carers To Achieve Their Potential

Children who are young carers will have missed out on all sorts of opportunities, from basic education to social and developmental activities. Their childhoods will have been very different to their peers, having had responsibility from a young age. YCDT supports young carers to raise their aspirations and reach their potential.

Young carers are resilient, resourceful and dedicated young people and YCDT's work harnesses these qualities and challenge the fact that young carers are less likely to succeed. We aim to nurture the development of these talented young people through a 4-year programme of support.

YCDT's unique approach changes the lives of the young carers we work with. All the Young carers we have supported so far have gone on to attend university or develop a skilled career. This is a remarkable achievement given the challenges these young people face, combining their time-consuming caring roles with the dedication required to study. Our young carers are unanimous that without our intervention they would not have achieved their GCSEs or considered university as an option.

At the end of their YCDT programme of support, our young carers are invited to be ambassadors for the charity. They then become invaluable role models for our current beneficiaries and an inspiration for young carers everywhere.

Over the last eight years, the expertise and continued support of our development managers has been invaluable to enabling our young carers to achieve their potential. It is a privilege to have such dedicated volunteers as part of our team.



Karina Eccles  
Charity Manager



Leah Morgan  
Service Manager

***"There is honestly no way I could have done this without your support"***

Scarlett, 18, triple distinction BTEC Health and Safety, UWE (Health & Safety Management) cohort 2020'

# Our Mission

YCDT provide intensive one to one support to enable young carers to achieve their potential. We achieve this by encouraging them to strive for ambitious goals, to advance in life and to become active, inspiring role models for others from backgrounds similar to their own.

Young carers are at the centre of everything YCDT do. We aim to inspire and nurture them to achieve their potential. Our approach is to work with local young carers services to identify young carers with real potential who are unlikely to succeed without targeted support.

Alise, young carer for her mother since she was 11, has just finished her first year at Oxford University and says:

*"I am incredibly grateful for all that the YCDT have done for me. I would not have achieved all that I have without their support."*



Young carers are 3x as likely to be 'not in Education Employment or Training' (NEET)

There are 700,000 identified young carers in the UK

A young carer misses 48 days (10 weeks) of the school year on average due to their caring role

Young Carers without support like YCDT's are 4x more likely to drop out of university or college

On average young carers achieve the equivalent of 9 lower GCSE grades than their peers

# What We Do—Our 4-Year Programme

## Year 1

- Meet our young carers at the start of year 11
- Match them with a Development Manager
- Set goals using a strengths-based approach
- Provide educational support; IT and other equipment; wider learning opportunities
- Support with post-16 choices

## Year 2

- Provide information, advice and guidance
- Set goals using a strengths-based approach
- Support to access wider learning and enrichment opportunities
- Provide educational support
- Support to research options for after post-16

## Year 3

- Support young carers to identify and visit universities
- Help to complete UCAS applications
- Support those applying for a degree apprenticeship, meaningful employment or starting their own business
- Provide emotional and financial support

## Year 4

- Provide emotional support
- Ensure transition to adulthood goes as smoothly as possible
- Signpost to other services for further support if needed

## Ambassadors

Young carers are offered the chance to become Ambassadors for YCDT. This role includes raising awareness of the charity and our work, raising awareness of young carer issues, using public platforms to describe their experiences and becoming Development Managers.

*“Because of YCDT I aimed higher and achieved my potential”*

# Our Impact

In September 2020 we took on five new beneficiaries, taking the total number of young carers we have supported to 26. The majority of the young people we support start with us in year 11, this is to ensure our support is in place before they start their GCSE exams.

**YCDT's support has result in our young carers achieving:**

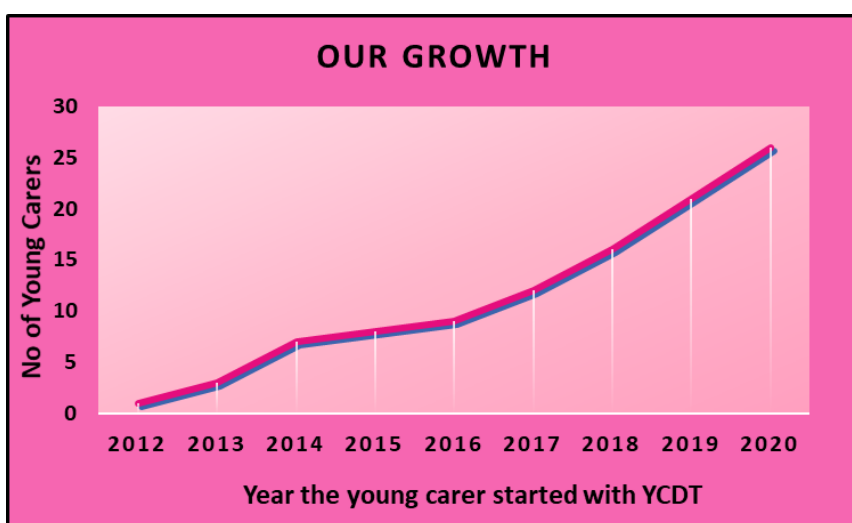
- An overall improvement of 2.6 grades (average)
- 88% into university (50% of which were Russell Group)
- 12% into meaningful employment in line with their aspirations
- 100% remaining in 'Education, Employment or Training' (EET)
- 25% obtaining scholarships to fee paying schools
- 66% continuing their relationship with us and becoming Ambassadors
- 1 has become a Development Manager



Oli, speaking to Nailsea & Backwell Rotary Club about his experiences as a young carer and the difference YCDT has made to his life.



Alise, speaking to the Percent Club in Bath about her life as a young carer and the impact YCDT has had.



***"YCDT gave me the support I needed to build my confidence."***



# Our Young Carers

Gabby lives with and cares for her mother, a single parent, who is an amputee and has a twin brother with serious mental health issues. Gabby has had a very difficult time at school and was very isolated for much of it. She is in her final year of YCDT support and has just finished her first year studying photography at Leeds University and says this:

*"YCDT meant I got into college and passed the maths!  
Without YCDT I would never even have considered college."*

A few of our young carers' thoughts  
on their Development Managers:

*"My DM showed  
me my strengths  
and helped me  
believe in myself"*



*"My DM showed  
me all the different  
paths I could take."*

*"My DM's support  
has improved my  
well being"*

*"Knowing  
someone was  
there for me made  
all the difference."*

Oliver lives alone with his mother who has very serious physical health issues. Oliver is responsible for ensuring she takes her medication (including injections), cooking the meals and looking after the house. He also cared for his Nan who he described as his "best friend" until she sadly recently passed away. He frequently missed school to accompany his mother to hospital.

Oliver has had a difficult time at school with a combination of numerous missed school days, bullying and dyslexia. Oliver is in the second year of his support from YCDT and has just completed a highly successful course in carpentry at Didac specialist training provider. He starts an apprenticeship in carpentry this Autumn.

# Our Income

- We fundraise for 100% of our income
- We receive no statutory funding
- Funding comes from a variety of sources including Trusts, Foundations, individual donations, corporate giving, events and community fundraising.

- All funding we receive goes directly towards our provision for these young people.
- The more funding we receive, the more young carers we can help.


- It costs £5,750 to support a young carer for 4 years.
- We always ensure the money is in place for all 4 years before taking on a young carer.

# Our Funders

An enormous thank you to all of our funders, your support has enabled YCDT to grow from a fledgling local charity to one of regional standing, with increasing impact each year of the lives of young carers. Through your funding we have changed their lives.

Paradigm Norton Trust	The Grace Trust
Mrs R P Tindall's Charitable Trust	Eva Reckitt Fund
Denman Charitable Trust	Sisters of Mercy Union of Great Britain
Ann D Foundation	Scobell Charitable Trust
Nailsea & Backwell Rotary Club	Walter Guinness Charitable Trust
Chippenham Borough Lands Charity	Violet Wills Will Trust
The Fitton Trust	Robert McAlphine Trust
Helianthus Trust	Joan Wilkinson Charitable Trust
South Stoke Church	Bath Boules Charitable Trust
The Lark Trust	4814 Charitable Trust
The Mears Foundation	Tula Trust
The Kass Foundation	Alchemy Trust
Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol	TK Maxx & Homesense Foundation
Waitrose	Helen Hamlyn Foundation
The W O Street Foundation	Roger & Sarah Bancroft
Swire Charitable Trust	Clark Charitable Trust
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust	Wakefield Trust
The Truemark Trust	Waitrose
The Grant Foundation	Mountbatten Memorial Fund





Inspiring and nurturing young  
carers to achieve their potential

**YCDT**  
Young Carers Development Trust

**“YCDT showed me my strengths and  
helped me to believe in myself.”**

**Charity Manager – Karina Eccles,  
+(44) 7368 366660 [www.ycdt.org.uk](http://www.ycdt.org.uk) [info@ycdt.org.uk](mailto:info@ycdt.org.uk)  
c/o The Carers Centre, Woodlands, Lower Bristol Road, Bath, BA2 9ES**

**The Young Carers Development Trust is a charity (1150197) and a company  
limited by guarantee (England and Wales No. 07771110).**