

Young Adult Carers Policy

Reference Number: LEA22

Version: 4

Page(s):	5	
Approved SMT Date:	08/08/2025	
Last Review Date:	17/07/2025	
Review Frequency:	Annually	
Next Review Date:	31/07/2026	
Originator title:	Deputy Principal Quality & Student Services	
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Equality Impact Assessment Date:	30/06/2025	
Equality Impact Assessment Review Date:	30/06/2028	
Associated Policy:	None	

1. Introduction

Cambridge Regional College is committed to identifying and supporting Young Adult Carers to help them access and succeed in education.

The College recognises its responsibilities under the Children and Families Act 2014 to identify and support young carers, and under the Care Act 2014, which applies to those aged 18 and over. We are also committed to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010, ensuring that no student is disadvantaged because of their caring responsibilities, particularly where these relate to protected characteristics such as disability.

2. Purpose

- 2.1** Cambridge Regional College is committed to supporting Young Adult Carers (YAC) to access education. This policy aims to ensure all students who are YAC are offered appropriate support to improve their experience and success whilst at College.
- 2.2** Young Adult Carers do not always recognise or disclose that they have caring responsibilities, therefore it is essential that the college has in place the processes to identify those students who are Young Adult Carers at the earliest stage.
- 2.3** The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all staff are clear on the commitment to Young Adult Carers and are clear on how to proceed should a student be identified. As well as this, relevant support staff are trained to assist and support.
- 2.4** The college has a strong partnership in place with Centre 33 and Caring Together who can provide advice, training and support to both staff and students at Cambridge Regional College.

3. Definitions

- 3.1** A Young Adult Carer is someone aged between 16-24 who cares, unpaid, for someone who may be chronically ill, disabled, have a mental health condition or an addiction. The care is disproportionate/inappropriate for the young person's age or abilities.

4. Scope

- 4.1** This policy applies to all students and apprentices enrolled on a college programme who are under the age of 24.
- 4.2** The arrangements set out in this document also apply to the 14-16-year-olds who are studying their compulsory education at the college.

5. Process

- 5.1** Cambridge Regional College has a designated Inclusive College and Sanctuary Coordinator who has lead responsibility for Young Adult Carers.
- 5.2** This staff member, as well as all Student Advice and Safeguarding Officers will refer students for additional assessments and support to partner agencies such

- as Centre 33 if they are aged up to 25. Caring Together and Making Space work with all students over the age of 18, as appropriate, with consent.
- 5.3** During the application, interview and enrolment process, the college will identify and document if the student has caring responsibilities.
 - 5.4** The college's Transitions Coordinator will also liaise with all schools through the Cambridge Area Partnership [CAP] process to identify those young people who are Young Adult Carers.
 - 5.5** The Young Adult Carers Lead will liaise with Centre 33 to identify young people who are Young Adult Carers who are already accessing the service and need further support at college.
 - 5.6** The Young Adult Carer Lead will contact those identified to offer further assessment and information on support available to them, including financial assistance at college.
 - 5.7** The Young Adult Carer Lead will work in collaboration with curriculum staff to create bespoke support plans to meet the needs of the individuals to support them to achieve. This may include Student Advice and Safeguarding Officers acting to support students in performance related meetings, if appropriate.
 - 5.8** Students may be referred by curriculum staff or the Young Adult Carers Lead to Student Advice & Safeguarding Team for ongoing support around well-being when this need is identified.
 - 5.9** The Young Adult Carers Lead will facilitate regular student forums for Young Adult Carers to provide an opportunity to gather feedback about their student experience and share the feedback with relevant Managers so that appropriate action is taken where required.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1** The Young Adult Carers Lead will be responsible for providing a monthly report to SMT on the attendance, retention, and overall achievement of those identified.
- 6.2** The Young Adult Carer Lead and Student Advice and Safeguarding Manager will provide an end of year report to Heads of Department to inform their curriculum department quality improvement plan.

Document history

Date	Issue number	Change/Comments	Date Approved	Approved by
14/06/2021	1	Document created	24/4/21	SMT
06/02/2023	2	Reviewed – changes to staff roles, external partners, and YAC related updates.	27/02/23	Student Support and Safeguarding Manager
02/08/2024	3	Reviewed – changes to staff roles, external partners and YAC related updated.		Student Advisor and Safeguarding Officer (Young Adult Carers Lead) and Safeguarding Manager
17/07/2025	4	Introduction added	8/8/2025	Director of Student Services

