

Notice of Motion (Full Council)

Title of Motion: **Young Carer's Covenant**

Date of Council meeting the motion is to be submitted to: 22 July 2025

Proposer: **Councillor William Gill**

Seconder: **Councillor Les Trumpeter**

Motion:

"Council notes that in Sandwell, our young people are very fortunate to have the support and work of Sandwell Young Carers. The Carers Trust estimate that there are at least one million young carers aged 17 and under in the UK and over 600,000 young adult carers between the ages of 18 and 25. In Sandwell, hundreds of young carers are formally identified by the Department for Education, but the true number of young carers in Sandwell is likely to be far higher.

Council further notes that young carers miss an average of 23 school days per year and young adult carers are four times more likely to drop out of college or university, and that caring responsibilities can affect young carers' readiness to engage fully in school life, adding barriers to punctuality, their capacity to complete homework, and their ability to focus and participate effectively in lessons.

Council therefore resolves to mark Young Carers Action Day that took place earlier this year on 13 March 2025 by calling on the Leader and Cabinet to -

1. Sign up to the Young Carers Covenant, published by Carers Trust in March 2024.
2. Work alongside all schools and colleges to deliver Young Carer Awareness Training for staff so that they can recognise and address the challenges faced by young carers.
3. Encourage schools and colleges to mark Young Carers Action Day in the years to come by providing guidance, assembly plans, and awareness-raising materials."