

SOLIHULL YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT SERVICE

Referral Information

“Young carers are young people under the age of 18 who look after someone in their family who has an illness, a disability, mental ill health or substance misuse problem. Young carers take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.”

The underpinning principles for the definition are the following:

- The young person does not have to live with the person they care for.
- The term does not refer to young people under the age of 18 years who are caring for their own children.
- The term does not refer to those children and young people who accept an age appropriate role in taking increased responsibility for household tasks at homes with a sick, disabled or mentally ill parent.
- The young person lives in the Solihull Borough or is caring for someone living in the Solihull Borough.
- The young person is recognised as the primary carer in the family, such as a single parent family with the eldest young person fulfilling a caring role for the parent (and any siblings). NB: This does not include siblings in the case of those with special needs, where the parent/guardian is the main carer. Siblings are frequently referred to Young Carers Services because their parents are unable to spend with them as they are focusing upon the child with the disability. Although Young Carers experience similar issues, those outlined in relation to these children reflect being affected by illness and disability rather than being a carer.

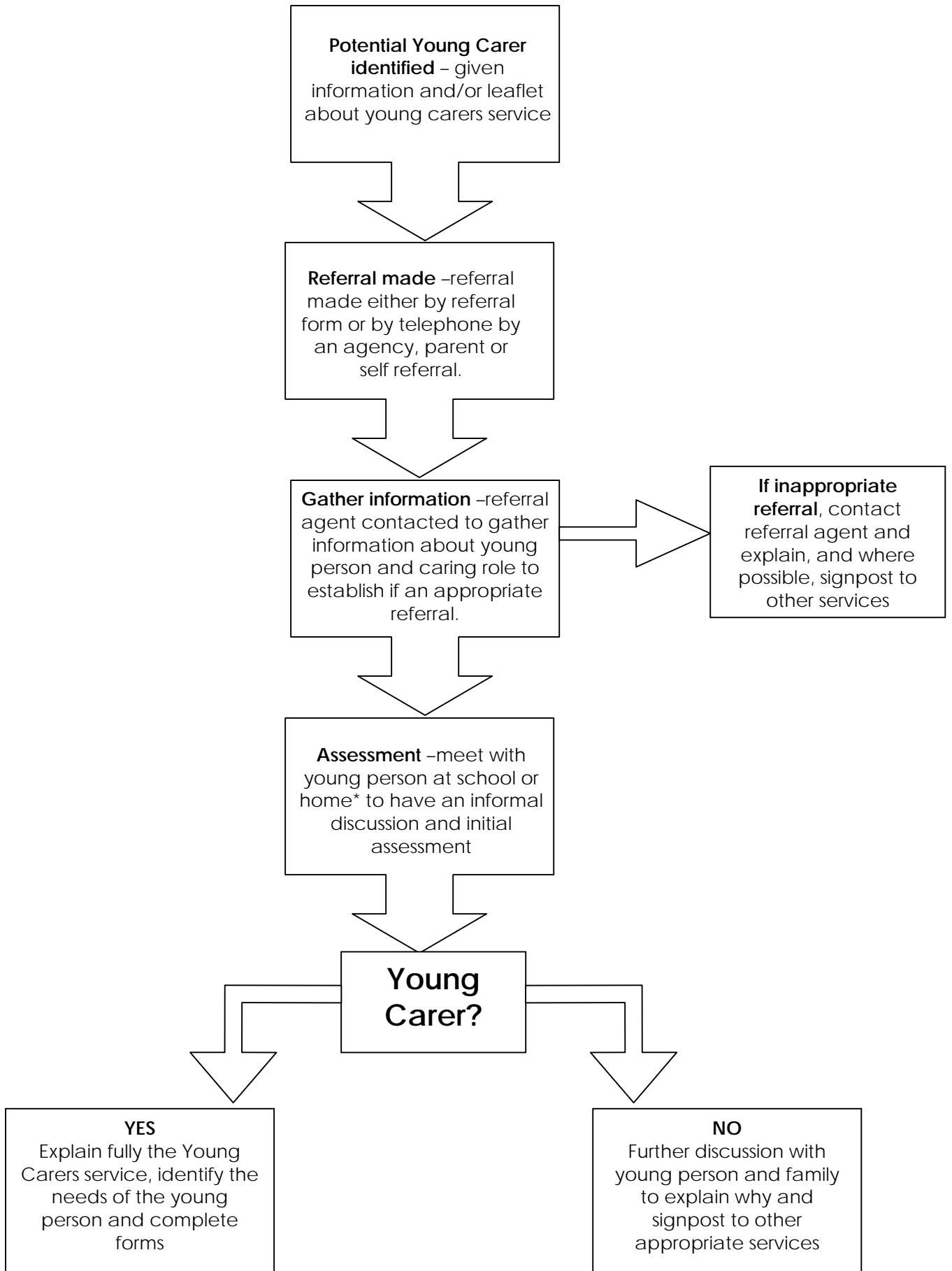
A young person taking on the role of a carer may be taking on tasks such as domestic chores, emotional and physical support, personal care and additional family responsibilities, such as caring for siblings. This may mean that a young carer may face certain issues such as; problems at school, ie poor attendance and concentration, bullying, at risk of offending, and child protection issues.

The aims of the service are to support young carers, provide advice and information and encourage them to become involved in activities both with the young carers and their peers through local groups, and allow them to take a break from their caring responsibilities, and be themselves. The impact of caring on a young person varies and it is important to assess needs on an individual basis, and tailor support accordingly. Ultimately, those that access the services will receive support from the young carers support worker for their individual needs, but by being encouraged to engage with their peers in other youth settings they will see themselves a young person before being a young carer.

Solihull Young Carers Support Service provides:

- One to One support
- Information and Advice
- Activities, trips out and holidays
- Advocacy
- Signposting to other agencies
- Opportunities to get involved in local leisure activities and mix with peers as well as other young carers

REFERRAL PROCESS



* Able to meet with a young carer at school or home, but unable to meet outside of these locations until a consent form has been completed, then able to carry out 1:1's in various settings, (ie community centre, connexions, local park, etc)