



CC(3)-YJ-06

Communities and Culture Committee

Scrutiny Inquiry – Youth Justice in Wales

Response from: The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads Caring for Carers

Community and Culture Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF991NA

Eich Cyf/Your Ref:

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: MP

Ebost/Email: martyn.pengilley@crossroads.org.uk

Dyddiad/Date: 27.05.09

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads Caring for Carers

We are the two biggest providers of services for carers in the UK and work together at a national level to promote policies and guidance that will support carers.

As two of the leading organisations working with and for carers, we strive to enable carers to have a life outside their caring role and we share a vision for society where:

- The role of carers and the contribution they make to our communities is fully acknowledged, understood and valued
- Carers are able to make informed choices about their caring role and the services that support them and the person they care for
- Carers, no matter where they live, have access to a more comprehensive and consistent range of service provision

Y mae gofaluwr yn rhywun, sydd, yn ddi dâl, yn darparu cymorth a chynhaliadaeth i gymar, plentyn, perthynas, cyfaill neu gymydog, na allai ymdopi heb eu cymorth. Fe allai hyn fod oherwydd oedran, afiechyd corfforol neu afiechyd meddwl, llusyddibyniaeth neu anabled.

A carer is someone, who, without payment, provides help and support to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour, who could not manage without their help. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness, addiction or disability.

Croesffyrdd Cymru Gofalu am Ofalwyr Trydydd Llawr, 33-35 Heol y Gadeirlan Caerdydd CF11 9HB Ffôn: 029 2009 0087 Ffacs: 029 2022 8859 www.crossroads.org.uk	Crossroads Wales Caring for Carers Third Floor, 33-35 Cathedral Road Cardiff CF11 9HB Tel: 029 2009 0087 Fax: 029 2022 8859 www.crossroads.org.uk
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Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig / Charity registration no: 282102

Rhif cwmni cyfyngedig drwy warant / A company limited by guarantee no: 1544708

Cyfeiriad swyddfa gofrestrdig / Registered office address: Crossroads Association 10 Regent Place, Rugby CV21 2PN

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers operates throughout the UK with 144 carers' centres & 85 young carers' projects.

Their core offer includes:

- Finding hidden carers via outreach in GP surgeries, hospital wards and other locations.
- Finding the right information and providing a personalised information service.
- Fighting for carers' rights and entitlements, including support for self-funders.
- Supporting carers emotionally through the caring journey.
- Helping carers can access breaks and employment.

Crossroads Caring for Carers operates throughout England and Wales with 120 local and regional schemes. We are the largest provider of respite care amounting to 4.6million hours every year. We have 35 years of unparalleled experience and expertise in providing personal care and vital support for the carer. A Crossroads service is about giving time - improving the lives of carers by giving them a break from their caring responsibilities. Our aim is to provide a reliable, tailored service for each carer and the person they care for. A trained Carer Support Worker will take over from the carer to give them 'time to be themselves'.

We are glad to have this opportunity to respond to this consultation and would make the following points.

As far as I can ascertain, we have no research evidence around the issues for young carers in the Youth Justice system and their experiences in the secure estate in Wales.

We would anticipate that the following actions would follow the identification of a young person as a carer when he/she enters the youth justice system: -

That attention is paid to their role as a carer and the emotional impact that this can have on a young person. We know that young carers often place their caring role first and their needs second. This has led to neglect of their overall development as a young person with a right to a

life of their own, leading to their education and employment opportunities suffering and a lack of understanding of their feelings of responsibility for the cared for person by many in authority. Release from their role as a carer can take many forms and has led in the past to patterns of behaviour being exhibited that has taken them into the youth justice system. Unfortunately, all we have is anecdotal evidence to support this, but we recognise the risks to young carers in this situation. The realisation of this risk should also be recognised by the secure estate.

Although it is understood that the needs of the child are paramount, it is also necessary to consider the cared for person and the need for a substitute carer to take the place of the young carer if they are taken into custody. This should form part of the assessment of the individual's circumstances with suitable action following the uncovering of the pertinent circumstances.

There is additional support available through the Princess Royal Trust's network of centres and/or Crossroads Caring for Carers branches throughout Wales and this information should be known and promoted within the justice system.

Martyn Pengilley
Policy and Welsh Assembly Officer
Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads Caring for Carers