

WE CARE, WE COUNT...



GLoucestershire
YOUNG
CARERS

Tel: 01452 733060
www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk

October 2011

Gloucestershire Young Carers is 18!!

So much has changed during the last 18 years not only at Gloucestershire Young Carers but the rest of the world. People have come and gone, had their ups and downs but most of all Gloucestershire Young Carers has had fun.

Let's take a walk back in time....

In September 1993 The Fresh Prince was at the top of the charts with 'Boom Shake The Room' while Gloucestershire Young Carers was finding its feet with only one staff member and four young carers on their books.

In April 2005 Gloucestershire Young Carers had its first big move due to the amount of numbers joining them. The move was to Pitt Street. During this time Tony Christy & Peter Kay were hitting number one with... 'Is This the Way to Amarillo!'

When the charity had its next big move in 2009 Lilly Allen 'The Fear' was at number one. Gloucestershire Young Carers moved into Twigworth Court where it has stayed.

Over the years Gloucestershire Young Carers has grown and created different specialist groups addressing such issues as 'mental ill health' and 'substance misuse within the family.'

When S Club 7 had a number one album and Kylie Minogue had her hit single 'Spinning Around' 30 young carers were packing to get ready for the first ever young carers' festival in 2000 which has grown over the years and got bigger and better.

Now we're hitting the big 18 we need a louder voice than ever before!! This is a time to make our mark and make people listen.

First Trip to Legoland!



New Staff Joining the Team

This month has seen a few changes at the charity with some new staff arriving at the centre.

One new member is Ismail Ginwalla. With new funding from Comic Relief, we were able to dedicate one member of staff to certain carers. Ismail is a Development Worker who will be specifically working with children and young carers living with people who have a substance or alcohol misuse problem. He will also work closely with the Nelson Trust.

We would also like to say a very fond farewell to Jo Palmer and Lesley Hodges who have been a great help to Gloucestershire Young Carers over the years.

Replacing Lesley is Judith Jules who will take over the role of Family Worker and will be covering the Gloucester area. Susan Wright is another new addition who will be working to support schools and with our Young Carers' Forum.



Editor's Note

Hi. I am Owen and I am this issue's editor. I am 15 from Tewkesbury.

This is a fun, jam-packed issue including an exciting 18th Birthday for Gloucestershire Young Carers, and some new arrivals as well as departures within the charity. Also there will be news on how the annual festival went and other residential trips, consultations, and meetings with MPs. The finished Safe, Sorted and Supported book project and a young carer that has raised some money will also be covered! There are lots of pictures too so you can see our other events.

In July I had work experience with the Gloucestershire Echo for the week, it was really fun and I wrote my own articles that went in the paper:

(<http://www.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk/Teen-carer-talks-day-life-looking-loved/story-12987475-detail/story.html>).

It was also fun because I got to meet the new Cheltenham Town footballer.

Finally I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped out with this issue, we had lots of fun and we all hope you enjoy reading it.



My Story...

J: Hi, I'm Jordan and today I will be interviewing Chelsey, who is a young carer.

Q1: Can you give an introduction to yourself?

C: Hi, I'm Chelsey. I'm 17 and I've been a young carer for the past 2 years.

J: Great stuff.

Q2: Why are you a young carer?

C: In 2009 my mum had an aneurism which resulted in 6 weeks at Frenchay hospital and has been severely disabled since.

Q3: How long have you been a member of Gloucestershire Young Carers?

C: About 18 months

J: Good stuff

Q4: What have you done with Gloucestershire Young Carers?

C: Interviewed MP's

Q5: What has Gloucestershire Young Carers done for you?

C: They have really supported me over the past few years – with everything I've been through it has been crucial to have someone to listen to me.



Young Carers Festival 2011

From the 24th to 26th June a group of young carers, including myself Tess, enjoyed a lovely weekend in Southampton.

We left our pick-up points and set off for the two and a half hour journey. Everyone started off a bit on edge as we didn't know each other but that soon faded when we got to the campsite and started the mission of putting the tents up. Surprisingly, it only took about an hour. That night there was a silent disco and the atmosphere was brilliant. Everyone got on and it was an amazing day.

Sleeping in a tent was very interesting, bumpy and cold. I learnt that I don't like tents. The following day was full of fun things to do: cake decorating, rock climbing, water activities, zumba, bouncy castle - there was even a karaoke. Me and some of the others enjoyed watching the good and the bad. LOL!

The young carers' festival has a radio station for the weekend. It had normal music but there was one difference: people came on and talked about being a young carer. It makes you realise that you're not on your own! People from all sorts of backgrounds came together and could just be young people for a change. They didn't have to worry about what needed doing next or if they had to cook dinner. There was no one there to judge you out of the 1500 young carers as they all have some of the same responsibilities as you. The festival gives you confidence, opportunity and time to have a lot of fun. Tess



Croft Farm

I was in a group of young carers who went to Croft Farm. It was just for Tewkesbury Group because they were closed for a few weeks. From the first day we were doing stuff. We did raft building first and my team's raft sadly fell apart in the race so I swam the remaining parts of the raft to the finish line where we did a game I can't remember very well. After that we had a race back to the other side of the lake. We then had lunch and then had kayaking. The next day we had an 8 o'clock start and went kayaking. We had a slow race and it was a bit

boring but then we had a race where we went from one point to another, ran around, then swam back to the kayaks. I won! YAY. After lunch we went windsurfing with two windsurfing instructors not a lot older than me. We did well. I was really good and got it straight way. After that it was time to pack up and go home. Jack



Young Carers meet.....Gloucester MP Richard Graham

Young carers Gemma and Rachel met Gloucester MP Richard Graham at his offices earlier in the Summer.

Gemma tells of the visit:

“We sat down and he spoke to us for a while before we interviewed him. We told him we wanted to keep our group in Gloucester going and needed funding.

“We both told him our stories and asked him some questions we had prepared. We had quite a discussion about what exactly a young carer is. Sometimes it is very hard for people to understand our situations and, as a young carer, this is very frustrating.”

Gemma supports her brother who has Scoliosis and her sister who is in recovery from Leukaemia.

“Having two siblings who need support affects the whole of your life.”



Mayor-Making



Representatives from Gloucestershire Young Carers were invited to two mayor-making ceremonies in Tewkesbury and Cheltenham. These were very formal events with lots of ceremonial elements. For example, the robing and unrobing of the mayor.

Mayor of Tewkesbury David Waters has chosen Gloucestershire Young Carers as one of his charities of the year, he supports the charity because his daughter was a young carer for many years.



Consultation

On Monday, August 8 members of the Gloucestershire Young Carers Forum took part in a consultation with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The County Council plans to adjust the Social Care system and has had consultations with various groups using the adult social care division to get an idea of what is important. Young Carers was one of the groups asked to inform on what worked well, what was important and what needed to be scrapped.

Forum members were asked to discuss ways in which their families used council services. The overwhelming majority admitted they didn't know what a service was. Young people being included in decision-making involving social workers and other professionals was rated the most important issue the council needed to face, named 'Active Listening'. Support for whoever is in the household for a positive impact came second. Finally, it was decided that what the Young Carers wanted was a social care division that included them and recognised their needs as well as the people they care for.

Abbie said “It was nice to feel like we were being listened to. Now we just have to wait and see if they've really listened.” The next meeting will be after the new proposals report has been issued.

Fundraising

We'd like to say thanks to all who have supported Gloucestershire Young Carers and a big thanks to one of our young carers Kieran who raised £200 from doing the Three Peaks Challenge.

Also to the G4 Technology people who gave Owen nice cakes and gave the charity a cheque for more than £6,000. Because of their generosity we have gained a helpful amount of money that will help to support young carers in their area. We would also like to mention Oberthur Technology for around £5,000 to help support groups and residentials and Gloucester Round Table for their huge donation too.

Other supporters this year so far have been Ecclesiastical, Gloucestershire County Council, NHS Gloucestershire, The Summerfield Trust, Merlin's Magic Wand, DART and Marks and Spencer, Northgate Street, Gloucester.

If Kieran can climb mountains what could you do? Please call us for more information on how to raise money for Gloucestershire Young Carers on (01452) 733060.

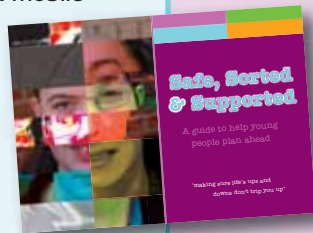
Help us also to promote our 'Text to Donate' campaign: DONATE via text, message GLYC01 and your donation amount, e.g. 01 for £1, 05 for £5 and £10 for £10, to 70070.



Crisis Plan

On the 24th February 2011 a group of young carers got together to put the finishing touches to the 'crisis plan' that was started earlier in the year. During the day we decided on the final details to put on each page, so that children of all ages would understand it. We also made some plasticine models to illustrate each page, including a crocodile, several family members and accessories (such as a sun and mobile phones).

The 'crisis plan' now called '**Safe, Sorted & Supported**' is a booklet that young carers can fill in with important details that they can use if something happens at home.



GFM

Tasmin and Abigail visited GFM – the local Gloucester radio station – to do an interview on what it is like to be a young carer.

Abigail said she was very excited to be on the radio and took the opportunity to say hello to family and her friend at school who supports her in her role as a young carer to her mum.

Website

www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk

Have you seen our website lately? It is packed full of interesting information about all things to do with Gloucestershire Young Carers. The news page is updated to tell young carers about forthcoming events.

Did you know that the website contains information on the local groups as well? Well now you do! Check out information about your local group and find out what is happening in other groups in the county.

The website includes links to other pages like NHS Gloucestershire and the National Young Carers website.

There is now a forum page which contains youth forum updates as well as pictures.

If you have any information that could be put on the website to benefit young carers then Trina would like to hear from you 01452 733060 or e-mail trina@glosyoungcarers.org.uk

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DART



Music Makers





**Cooking with Cotswold
Chef Rob Rees**

**Safe, Sorted
and Supported**



**Young Carers
Festival 2011**

