

# SAHSCP Young Carers Strategy 2021-2026

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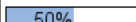





1. I am safe, healthy and active					
Action	Assigned To	Due Date	Status	Progress	Latest Note
YCS 1.01	Claire Flanagan	31-Mar-2026			<p>09-Apr-2024 Work has begun on the Wee Carers movie. We have held multiple sessions with primary aged young carers to discuss their experiences, thoughts and feelings on caring. Three fictional stories have been written based on this and two have already been filmed. Two of the young people involved in The Weekend have been assisting as peer mentors. We plan to have another Night at the Oscars event to launch this which will be hosted by the children involved in the project. The film will then be disseminated to primary schools with an information package for them to share with all primary aged children.</p> <p>We have held our first secondary school week-long roadshow at Ayr Academy in partnership with the new Whole Family Approach Team and the carers service. We asked the WFA team to partner on this project due to The Weekend addressing parental substance use and thought it important to highlight the drug and alcohol specific support available in addition to support as a young carer. The roadshow consisted of assemblies each morning for S1, S2, S3, and S4-6, followed by a marketplace event where various organisations that can support young carers and families held a stall with information and advice. An electronic survey was completed by the young people who attended – 20% are supporting a loved one due to problematic substance use and 30% believe they are a young carer. All other secondary schools are now arranging a roadshow at their school. This has been delayed due to school holidays and exam leave, but it is hoped that all schools will have completed by the end of this academic year.</p>


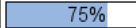

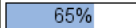
					<p>New school policy with Education for sign off. Change to SEEMiS has been actioned. We are now awaiting update to work instructions from Education to be included in the new training video and Management Guidelines.</p> <p>Awareness raising/training has continued for a number of groups/services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Occupational Health</li> <li>. Probationer teachers</li> <li>. Small Steps Family First</li> <li>. Wallacetoun Group staff</li> <li>. Pupil Support Coordinators</li> </ul> <p>Our young carer film project has won a number of awards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Scottish Public Services Award – Championing Diversity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>. Great British Care Awards, Scotland/North East England regional final, Unpaid Carer</li> <li>. Great British Care Award, grand UK Finals, Unpaid Carer</li> <li>. Finalist in National Youth Work Awards, Equality &amp; Diversity (ceremony June 2024)</li> </ul> <p>We have been chosen as a pilot area for Carers Trust Scotland (on behalf of Scottish Government) Schools Challenge Award. To obtain the award, all schools must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Have a Young Carer Champion</li> <li>. Have a school policy for young carers</li> </ul>
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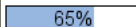

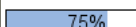

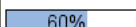
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have all young carers recorded on SEEMiS</li> <li>All staff to be trained on young carers</li> </ul> <p>All schools in South Ayrshire will meet all criteria on the first in-service day of the next academic year (August).</p>
YCS 1.02	Ensure that all policies take young carers into account.	Aaron Cyr	31-Mar-2026			<p>12-Jul-2023 The HSCP Planning &amp; Performance team support with policy development and to help ensure all Carers taken into account when developing/refreshing strategies and policies. South Ayrshire is also presently an 'Established' Carer Positive Employer with Human Resources considerations for Carers when Policy is being developed.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions during policy development will be required with Strategy Leads to ensure that all policies take account of Carers.</p>
YCS 1.03	Develop clear pathways and protocols for supporting young carers in health and social care, education and relevant Community Planning partner services.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Dec-2024			<p>09-Apr-2024 We are working with UWS to implement the successful tutoring pilot permanently. There has been a slight delay to this due to a bereavement, but the project should be up and running this academic year and will continue as a partnership with UWS. Schools can sign up pupils for 6 week blocks of tutoring, either online or in person.</p>
YCS 1.04	Continue to develop procedures for the Young Carer Statement to ensure that young carers receive person-centred, coordinated, and tailored support, through their Childs Plan, to maintain and/or improve their physical/mental health.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026			<p>09-Apr-2024 New school policy with Education for sign off. Change to SEEMiS has been actioned. We are now awaiting update to work instructions from Education to be included in the new training video and Management Guidelines.</p>

YCS 1.05	Develop and implement a process to collect and report on carer information as required by Scottish Government on an annual basis.	Aaron Cyr	31-Dec-2021			09-Apr-2024 Change to SEEMiS has been actioned. We are now awaiting update to work instructions from Education to be included in the new training video and Management Guidelines.
YCS 1.06	Review the Local Eligibility Criteria on an annual basis and revise the document where necessary, ensuring that young carers, relevant staff and partners are consulted with on any changes.		31-Mar-2026			20-Feb-2023 Eligibility criteria to be reviewed at next strategy group meeting.
YCS 1.07	Develop a clear pathway for young carers linked to palliative care and life-limiting illness, including bereavement support.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2024			31-Jan-2022 Multiagency short life working group to be formed to develop process for identification and forum for planning support.
YCS 1.08	Review the Short Break Statement on an annual basis and revise the document where necessary, ensuring that young carers, relevant staff and partners are notified of any changes.		31-Mar-2026			20-Feb-2023 Working with Carers Trust Scotland to review Short Break Statement and ensure it is 'young person friendly'. The Young Carers Advisory Group will create an easy read version and recommend changes. This will then be used as a nest practice example nationally.
YCS 1.09	Ensure that arrangements, such as home respite, are in place to support the cared for person when a young carer is on a short break or taking time out from their caring role.		31-Mar-2022			31-Jan-2022 Where identified in Child's Plan and YCS arrangements are in place with commissioned services to provide short break / time out.
YCS 1.10	Work in partnership with South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) to identify and put in place appropriate support for young carers where either parental, or their own, substance misuse is an issue.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026			09-Apr-2024 We worked in partnership with the new Whole Family Approach Team (Barnardos) to develop a secondary school roadshow. We decided to partner with Barnardos on this project due to The Weekend addressing parental substance use and thought it important to highlight the drug and alcohol specific support available in addition to support as a young carer. The roadshow consisted of assemblies each morning for S1, S2, S3, and S4-6, followed by a marketplace event where various organisations that can support young carers and families held a stall with information and advice. An electronic survey was completed by the young people who attended – 20% are supporting a loved one due to problematic substance use and 30% believe they are a young carer. All other secondary schools are now arranging a roadshow at their school. This has been delayed due to school holidays and exam leave, but it is hoped that all schools will have completed by the end of this academic year.  YCSLO requested to join the ADP CYP & Families subgroup and

						Whole Family Approach group - awaiting response (expected by end of May 24).
YCS 1.11	Develop a safe South Ayrshire online chat forum for young carers.		31-Dec-2021	✓		31-Jan-2022 During lockdown Young Carers Centre developed online forums to support. Whatsapp group established by them and in current use.
YCS 1.12	Provide free leisure access to all young carers in line with provision for looked after children.	Alistair Mutch	31-Dec-2023	✓		<p>20-Feb-2023 • Requested additional benefits for the card: YC able to take a friend/family member, age limit lowered to allow young YC to benefit, lessons specifically for YC (swimming/diving/gym inductions) – being reviewed by Leisure.</p> <p>• Code for YC available from Thriving Communities to allow booking of all chargeable activities free of charge.</p> <p>• Activ8 card being extended to age 25 (Young Adult Carers) from January 2023.</p> <p>Activ8+ card will be made available to under 8s (plus specific over 8s). This allows same benefits as Activ8 plus an additional person can benefit from the same (sibling/parent/carer/friend).</p>
YCS 1.13	Put in place a central gateway for young carers to access support through universal and targeted services.		31-Dec-2022	✓		31-Jan-2022 GIRFEC and Team Around the Child is the pathways for assessment and support for young carers. Work needs done to ensure that pathways for needs arising from YCS are in place.
YCS 1.14	Encourage all Community Planning Partners to work towards a Carer Positive Award.	Susan McCardie	31-Dec-2022	✓		20-Feb-2023 Attended CPP Board to present about Carer Positive Award 27th October 22 and met with organisations following the meeting to discuss what they could do within their organisation for young and adult carers.
YCS 1.15	Identify funding to improve support for young carers.		31-Mar-2026	▶		<p>09-Apr-2024 We were successful in our bid to support a late breakfast club at Ayr Academy. We are partnering with Champs Board, Thriving Communities and our commissioned carers service to deliver this.</p> <p>We are partnering with Active Schools (Thriving Communities) and our commissioned carers service to offer swimming lessons to all young carers who live in the Maybole and North Carrick area. We have secured £3,000 which will cover the lessons, transport to and from school and any additional expenses (e.g. swimming costumes, goggles) that the young carers may have.</p>


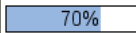
YCS 1.16	Link to the work of the Champions Board for Care Experienced Children and young people where areas of focus are the same or similar.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 15px; background-color: #4a86e8; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><span style="margin-left: 5px;">75%</span></div>	<p>09-Apr-2024 For the second year, we joined with the Champs Board to host an event at Ayrshire College Ayr Campus. This provided an opportunity for young people to come along and see what the college has to offer, familiarise themselves with the building and staff to ease any anxieties, and meet with a range of partners who can provide advice and/or support. 82 young people attended and the feedback from young people, the college and organisations who attended was extremely positive.</p> <p>We are now able to report on young carers who are also care experienced. We are working with Dawn Parker and Education to create reporting on attendance and attainment for these children and young people and will be identifying any additional needs/barriers that we need to address.</p>
YCS 1.17	Consider the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on young carers.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Dec-2023		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 15px; background-color: #4a86e8; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><span style="margin-left: 5px;">100%</span></div>	<p>18-Jan-2024 Whilst the longer term impact of Covid is likely yet to be fully understood, the impact on young carers was, we know disproportionate to the general population. Much work has happened to provide support, respite and a voice for young carers and this will be ongoing. The target around Covid now seems less relevant and, whilst this will now be noted as complete, the work will continue and any relevant finding specific to Covid impact can be reported as appropriate.</p>
<b>2. I am nurtured, achieving and respected</b>						
Action	Assigned To	Due Date	Status	Progress	Latest Note	
YCS 2.01	Consult with young carers to design and deliver a co-ordinated young carers support service that is fit for the future.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 15px; background-color: #4a86e8; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><span style="margin-left: 5px;">70%</span></div>	<p>09-Apr-2024 We have representation on the Young Carer Strategy Implementation Group of young carers. Ailish and Joshua who are Young Carer Ambassadors (Joshua is also MSYP) now attend each meeting to share their lived experience and views at a strategic level which is invaluable.</p>

						Due to the dramatic increase in the number of known young carers in primary schools, we have prioritised establishing a voice group for their age and stage. The first meeting will be a weekend away at Honeypot House where we will review the strategy and priorities in relation to primary aged children. Our commissioned carers service had planned to adopt a Champs Board model, so will be partnering with us on this and the secondary aged voice group.
YCS 2.02	Develop new opportunities and promote existing activities which offers peer support and friendship for young carers within each of the locality areas.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026			09-Apr-2024 New young carer activities developed and/or supported by HSCP:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Family passes for Culzean</li> <li>. Honeypot Christmas memory days</li> <li>. Honeypot residential</li> <li>. Wee carers movie project</li> <li>. Alloway Tunnel project</li> <li>. Tempura mural project</li> <li>. Carers Parliament</li> <li>. LDAN Bill project</li> <li>. Scottish Parliament – Cross Party Group</li> <li>. Scottish Rowing – launch of new pontoon</li> </ul>
YCS 2.03	Explore ways to provide support and opportunities to young carers through education and into further education, training, employment, volunteering and independent living.	Jamie Tait	31-Mar-2026			09-Apr-2024 YCSLO joining new Education Transitions group April 24 to represent young carers.


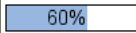


						Our young carers were encouraged to disclose their caring role within UCAS applications so that they were able to apply via Widening Access, if required. One example of this is a young carer from Belmont Academy who was successful in obtaining an offer to study Medicine at Glasgow Academy – this would not have been possible without having disclosed caring responsibilities and Widening Access.
YCS 2.04	Develop arrangements for identifying key transition points for young carers early.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Dec-2024			09-Apr-2024 Following feedback from families and staff identifying young carers under the age of 5, we have set up a working group as there was no way of recording and reporting on this age group and very little support available. The initial meeting was extremely successful and we now have a method of reporting and recording data for young carers under the age of 5. This means these children can be supported in their transition to school as information can be passed from Lead Professional (Health Visitor) to Lead Professional (school), and children are able to access Activ8+, respite funding and hardship funding.  Education have a new group which is focussing on transitions for children and young people. YCSLO has joined this group to represent young carers.
YCS 2.05	Continue to monitor young carers' experiences through a variety of methods including, focus groups, surveys, comments, concerns and complaints and use this information to ensure we are making progress on our actions.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026			25-Sep-2023 Each secondary school in South Ayrshire has engaged in hosting monthly drop-in sessions, allowing consistent, local and easily accessible support for all teen young carers. This also provides an opportunity for young people who think they may be young carers to reach out for information and advice and reduces stigma due to increasing visibility in schools on a regular basis.
YCS 2.06	Develop a range of age appropriate resources and clear information for young carers which can be easily accessed when required.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026			25-Sep-2023 Young carers developed an information booklet which is shared with schools, organisations and at awareness raising sessions.  Working with comms to updated young carer HSCP web page.

### 3. I am responsible and included



Action	Assigned To	Due Date	Status	Progress	Latest Note	
YCS 3.01	Develop and deliver a communications and engagement programme to raise the profile of young carers and the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, building on initiatives such as Young Carers Action Day, Carers Rights Day and Carers Week.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026			<p>09-Apr-2024 Young carers attended Prestwick Carers Day for the first time. Over one third (35%) of people who attended were young carers. The event consisted of stalls hosted by organisations who could provide additional support for carers and families, musical performances by Prestwick Academy pupils and an afternoon tea. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.</p> <p>YCSLO worked with Carers Trust Scotland to deliver lectures to UWS Education students (Primary teacher training) on young carer awareness. This was also an excellent opportunity to recruit for our tutoring project with UWS.</p> <p>YCSLO has continued to attend parents evenings and school events to raise awareness of young carers. These have been great opportunities to speak directly with families and staff, share information on young carers, alleviate any family fears of identifying their children as young carers and tackle stigma.</p> <p>Young carers attended Girvan Carers Day for the first time. The day consisted of of stalls hosted by organisations who could provide additional support for carers and families, musical performances by Girvan Academy pupils and staff, unpaid carers (young and adult) sharing their experiences, and an afternoon tea. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.</p> <p>Wallacetoun – we are working closely with the staff at Wallacetoun due to the prevalence of unpaid carers in lower deciles. This has proven to be very beneficial with whole families being identified as carers (young and adult) and then signposted and supported by</p>

						<p>staff to access additional support.</p> <p>Young Carers Action Day – our young carers were invited to Scottish Parliament to her a debate on young carers. We were delighted to hear Elena Whitham MSP praise the work in South Ayrshire in her speech! We were invited to the Cross Party Group on Unpaid Carers. Two of our young carers, Flynn and Joshua, participated in the round table discussion, sharing their experiences of caring with MSPs.</p>
YCS 3.02	Work with young carers and key partners to develop a Young Carers' Promise, consolidating the rights and key principles for supporting young carers.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2026		<input type="text" value="10%"/>	20-Feb-2023 Will progress once the YCVG has had time to establish.
YCS 3.03	Develop and promote a Carer Identification Card for young carers. Exploring opportunities to use the card as a mechanism to identify carers and provide carers with local discounts.		31-Dec-2024		<input type="text" value="50%"/>	09-Apr-2024 The Carers Recognition Card for both young and adult carers is still delayed due to GDPR sign off from South Ayrshire Council Legal team.
YCS 3.04	Develop a clear pathway to support young carers at the point of hospital discharge.	Claire Flanagan	31-Dec-2024		<input type="text" value="50%"/>	25-Sep-2023 2 x hospital discharge workers employed by East Ayrshire Carers Service. Regular meetings to monitor referrals. Service is included within the new carer service contract.
YCS 3.05	Establish a Young Carers Reference Group, with representation from young carers and the organisations, who support young carers and strengthen links with other relevant groups e.g. Youth Forum.	Claire Flanagan	31-Dec-2023		<input type="text" value="65%"/>	<p>25-Sep-2023 Young Carer Voice Network established – 50+ young carers of all ages.</p> <p>Plan to establish a Young Carer Group (name TBD) of 6-8 young carers early next year.</p>
YCS 3.06	Identify opportunities to improve equalities of outcomes for young carers with protected characteristics and identify opportunities to promote good relations.		31-Mar-2026		<input type="text" value="75%"/>	31-Jan-2022 Council policy and procedure such as Equality Impact Assessments and the Integration of the UNCRC principles to policy to partially achieve. Furth work to be done with reference group to identify inequality and consider how to address through positive action
YCS 3.07	The new HSCP Strategic Advocacy Plan will ensure that advocacy support for young carers is	Russell Hamilton	31-Dec-2024		<input type="text" value="10%"/>	26-Sep-2023 The HSCP Strategic Advocacy Plan is currently being progressed by the planning and performance team with the aim to

	a priority.					have a draft written by early 2024. (Rachael Graham)
YCS 3.08	Establish a training programme for young carers. Including manual handling, fire safety, housing issues and finance / benefit advice etc.	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2024			<p>20-Feb-2023 • Working with My Bnk and Champs Board to provide financial literacy training for YC 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaising with internal and external colleagues to understand what training can be provided by colleagues.</li> <li>• Fire service providing first aid, fire safety, Naloxone, CPR training 2023.</li> </ul> <p>Thriving Communities providing first aid training in secondary schools for young carers.</p>
YCS 3.09	Consider ways to improve transport for young carers, particularly in rural areas, to ensure they can access services; support and activities (could include mixed age options with Older People).	Claire Flanagan; Russell Hamilton	31-Mar-2023			20-Feb-2023 YCS funding available to support young carers who highlight travel as a barrier on their Young Carers Statement