

Part A - General Information

Charity Name

MYTIME Young Carers Charity

Charity Type/Structure

Not-for-profit

Charity Registration Number

297481

Project Name (if same as Charity Name, please leave this blank)

MYTIME School Support Programme

Lead Contact

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Social media handles (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram etc):

Facebook: MYTime Young Carers
Twitter: @mytime_charity
LinkedIn: MYTime Young Carers
Instagram: MYTime Young Carers

Part B - Project Proposal

Project Mission: A snapshot of the project's intention (50 words max)

Our School Support Programme will launch to 10 local schools in September 2020. Through this programme, we aim to address the quality of a young carer's education and to improve their educational outcomes, thus enabling them to thrive personally and professionally and reach their full potential in later life.

Situation (250 words)

At MYTIME, we believe that no child's destiny should be defined by their beginning, yet according to The Children's Society (2013), young carers achieve, on average, 9 grades lower overall at GCSE than other children. Carers Trust reports that young carers aged between 16 and 18 years are twice as likely to be not in education, employment, or training (NEET), and that 49% of young adult carers aged between 18 and 25 years old are unemployed. Too many young carers are falling behind in the education system and later, paying the price in the world of work.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, many young carers have needed to shield to protect vulnerable relatives, and 67% tell Caring Together that their caring responsibilities have increased. As a result, almost 70% of the young carers we serve locally have reported that they have struggled to keep up with schoolwork. The gap in achievement between young carers and their peers is expected to have widened significantly due to the disruption of this year, and young carers will need effective support in schools now, more than ever, if they are to be able to catch up on the last six months.

Selfless, compassionate, hard-working, dedicated and dependable, young carers represent a real asset within our society, but one which, all too often, goes undervalued, underappreciated and underutilised. MYTIME are here to champion young carers and to reshape Britain's education system to better meet their needs.

Complication (250 words)

Underlying issues include the following:

- Schools often do not know their young carers. Many young carers are unregistered, which means nobody

knows about their role. Some are known to their local councils, but communication between councils and schools is poor. As a result, 39% of young carers state that their school is unaware of their caring responsibility. If schools don't know their young carers, they cannot adequately support them.

- Only 19% of school teachers have ever received training on how to support young carers. This means, firstly, that the vast majority will not be able to identify young carers for themselves. Secondly, this indicates that even if teachers were to be made aware of their young carers, they would be unlikely to understand their needs. Education for a young carer can, therefore, represent an isolating and bewildering experience.

- Caring responsibilities often result in lateness to school, incomplete homework or lack of concentration in class, all of which represent significant obstacles to attainment. Furthermore, staff members who are unaware of a young carer's circumstance may well respond to these offences with punishment which can discourage young carers.

- Young carers miss, on average, 48 school days per year and, thus, almost 25% of their education. With poor attainment comes increased despondency and damaged self-confidence. In addition, 2 in every 3 young carers report experiencing bullying in school. It's easy to see why young carers may become disheartened, and may actively seek to avoid school where possible.

Solution (250 words)

In September 2020, we will formally launch our School Support Programme to 10 schools across Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. The programme will be led by those members of our team who have significant experience and, therefore, credibility within the education system. Through this programme, we will:

- host student assemblies to develop a school culture in which young carers are known about, understood and respected. Through these, we hope to tackle the issue of bullying within schools, and to encourage young carers to come forwards and make themselves known.
- provide CPD to pastoral and mentoring staff to ensure that they are equipped to recognise and effectively support young carers.
- produce individualised school policies addressing the issues surrounding young carers and their educational success.
- help schools to monitor the attendance and academic attainment of young carers and advise as to suitable interventions where necessary.
- facilitate better communication between schools and councils, which is essential in order to reduce the number of young carers who are currently falling through the gaps between the various systems.
- provide opportunities for work experience and effective careers advice through schools to reduce the percentage of young carers who go on to be unemployed as young adults.
- facilitate activity days and weekend retreats for groups of young carers identified by their school as struggling and in need of a break.

NB: The above provision can be delivered online via Zoom or Microsoft Teams if necessary.

Part C - Wider Support

How would the Stephen Lloyd Award network of partners' support be beneficial to your project? (250 words max)

Because our team has recently undergone a significant transformation, some of us have only recently found our feet within our allocated positions. We feel sure that we would all benefit from some mentoring, and would particularly like some guidance with regards to fundraising strategy. We would also like to understand better how to put together a formal business plan, as well as how to create and implement a strategic vision for the charity, so would be thrilled to have the opportunity to sit down with somebody who is experienced in business planning and could offer us some support in this field. Finally, our financial director would be very grateful for some financial advice too. We are always looking to learn, grow and improve so would be delighted to have the chance to pick the brains of any one of your partners and to receive any guidance available to us at all.

Part D - Financial Justification

In general terms, please explain how the funding would be used to carry out your project. (50 words)

max)

We are seeking £20,000 to contribute to the annual salaries involved in the School Support Programme. These salaries include the salaries of a Programme Co-ordinator and Support Staff, who, together, would lead on all aspects of the programme and establish new links with schools and academy chains.

Part E - Supporting Information

Governing Documents: Where relevant, please upload any recent charity accounts and governing documents as attachments.

- [Governance-documents1.pdf](#)

Team: We would like to learn a little more about the individual or team invested into the project. What are your individual credentials? Is there a story behind how you or your team all came together to support the project? (75 words max)

With a mother, a previous foster carer and two qualified teachers on our team, we share a genuine interest in young people and a passion for supporting them to achieve happiness, success and fulfilment in everything they do. Our combined experience in the fields of parenting, caring and education and our links with Dorset Young Carers (who have historically provided training for us) mean that we are knowledgeable and well informed in what we do.

YouTube Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLV7zMc7tvU>

Additional References: You are welcome to provide a list of up to 5 links with relevant supporting material as further reference.

Below is a statement written by the Associate Assistant Principal of one of the schools with whom we piloted our School Support Programme in January. Here, she details the impact of the programme:

'Glenmoor and Winton have been working closely with MYTIME Young Carers to develop a programme of support for young carers at our school. Since beginning the project the quality of the provision the young carers receive has improved significantly. Senior leaders and the pastoral team have received high quality training from MYTIME on the issues facing young carers in schools and the most effective strategies to support them. As a result, pastoral staff have identified several students as young carers who were previously unknown to them.

MYTIME have also provided our young carers with several opportunities they would not normally have access to. This has included a VIP trip to AFC Bournemouth and a trip to Rock Reef at Bournemouth Pier. Feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive. They have loved having the opportunity to meet other young carers within the school, and have highlighted that previously they had not felt that the school knew who they were or were effectively supporting them.

As a result of participating in the programme, we have appointed a member of the senior leadership team to monitor our young carers' academic performance and attendance. We have also appointed a member of staff who will lead on the delivery of this programme, running weekly sessions for young carers to meet one another and creating individual support plans for the young carers at the school.

The impact this programme has had on our young carers is incredible and we look forward to continue working with MYTIME to ensure that the students at our school receive all the support and provision they need to go on and live happy and successful lives.'