



## Crossroads Together Young Carers Join the Young Carers Alliance

The aim of the Young Carers Alliance is to improve the identification, assessment, and support of young carers and young adult carers and ensure their voices are heard and acted upon.

Members of the alliance believe that no child or young person should be taking on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities which have a negative impact on their health, wellbeing, or ability to enjoy a good childhood.

The alliance (including young carers and young adult carers themselves) will develop and champion a Young Carers' Bill of Rights, setting out what we want to see for all young carers and young adult carers, and what change is required to make this happen.

The alliance will use the Bill of Rights to seek policy and practice improvements, and to have it recognised by decision-makers at all levels in order to benefit the lives of all young carers.

### The Young Carers Alliance brings together:

**Participation   Policy   Practice   Research**

### The Alliance will provide members with:

- Opportunities for sharing information, research evidence, and best practice
- Increased awareness of latest issues, trends, and support needs for young carers, young adult carers, and their families
- The ability to seek advice and peer support from individuals and organisations who work in a similar area around young carers and young adult carers
- Increased opportunities for collaboration

Bringing together these four strands will ensure an informed, collective and strong voice for young carers, young adult carers, and their families, and will also increase the number of opportunities to influence and campaign for sustainable support for all young carers and young adult carers.

### How the Young Carers Alliance will achieve this aim:

The Young Carers Alliance will use a variety of methods to achieve the aims of the alliance.

Members of the YC Alliance can get involved in as many or as few ways as desired. Being unable to participate in a particular type of activity of the Alliance (e.g. influencing or campaigning) does not stop organisations or individuals from becoming members.

### Young Carers Alliance activities can include:

- An e-mail distribution list, which can act as an information-sharing channel and a vehicle to promote opportunities or seek support/advice
- Collaboration opportunities (across research, policy and practice)
- Conducting and collating research to help inform policy proposals and campaigning agenda
- Identifying opportunities for young carers and young adult carers to have their voices heard by decision-makers
- Networking and best practice events/workshops
- Policy influencing and campaigning to provide a unified collective voice to increase likelihood of effecting policy change
- Providing portals for research evidence, examples of best practice, and useful information