

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND AND YOUNG CARERS -  
IMPACT OF COVID 19**

**REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To meet with representatives from the Sunderland Carers Centre and the Sunderland Parent Carer Forum in order to hear more about the impact of the Covid 19 situation on children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and the challenges facing young carers.
- 1.2 To consider the difficulties involved in providing support during a pandemic, the long-term implications on those involved and support they have received from other agencies.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The meeting will be attended by Lisa Watson (Carer Services Manager) from the Sunderland Carers Centre and Anita Cutts (Chair), Paula Wooton (Co Chair) and Julie Coulson (Finance) from the Sunderland Parent Carer Forum.
- 2.2 The Sunderland Carers Centre provides information, advice and guidance to all carers in and around the Sunderland area. The Carers Centre looks to assist and support carers directly, as well as providing linkages and signposting to other organisations.
- 2.3 For young carers (those under 25yrs) they can help with school, college or work, provide respite from caring duties and arrange for the opportunity to meet and gain support from people who have gone through or are going through similar issues.
- 2.5 The Sunderland Parent Carer Forum is a voluntary body comprising parent carers or the grandparents of children and young people (aged 0-25yrs) who have a special education need and/or disability.
- 2.6 The Forum aims to provide parent carers with a voice on how services are shaped and delivered in Sunderland as well as an opportunity to come together and share views. The Forum holds events, information sessions and training events and their parent reps attend meetings with various organisations in health, education and social care and local charity groups.

- 2.7 Sunderland Parent Carer Forum is part of the NE & Cumbria Regional Parent Carer Forum (13 forums), and the National Network of Parent Carer Forum, which consists of over 150 forums all over England.
- 2.8 Background submissions provided by both organisations are provided as an appendix.

### 3 **Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to consider the information provided.