

National Young Carers Coalition

Dear 'Right to Control' team,

Consideration of young carers' issues

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the 'Right to Control'. This response is on behalf of the National Young Carers Coalition.¹ The key aim of the National Young Carers Coalition is to improve the lives of young carers, disabled parents and their families by raising awareness of the issues they face and to ensure policy-makers recognise and respond to their needs.

Overall across the UK 2.1% of all children are young carers. The 2001 Census shows that 175,000 children provide some level of unpaid care to other family members. This is approximately 6% of children who live in families with illness and disability. 29,142 children in the UK provide more than 20 hours of care per week, and 13,029 of these provide more than 50 hours of unpaid care work per week.

A strong focus for the work of the National Young Carers Coalition is to ensure children's and adults' services join up around the needs of the family. We believe it would be a missed opportunity if a whole-family approach is not taken here with disabled parents and young carers. In the UK there are almost three million children under the age of 16 (equivalent to 23% of all children) who live in households where one family member is hampered in daily activities by a chronic physical or mental health problem, illness or disability.

The 'Right to Control' consultation currently focuses on disabled adults. We urge you to ensure that the needs of young carers are considered when developing the trailblazers and in all future work. In changing the way disabled people are supported we must

¹ The National Young Carers' Coalition is made up of organisations that work with young carers and their families including The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Crossroads Care, Disabled Parents Network, The Children's Society, Family Action, Action for Children and Barnardo's. 'Young Carers International' at The University of Nottingham and YMCA Fairthorne Manor are also involved.

ensure consideration is given to the impact this may have on young carers. We are also keen to know how you will be working across government on this issue.

The National Young Carers Coalition would be very pleased to share our wealth of knowledge, evidence and experience of service provision for young carers and their families. We look forward to working closely with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

[personal details removed]

