



AheadPartnership™
Unlocking social and economic potential

West Yorkshire and Harrogate
Health and Care Partnership



‘Couldn’t Care Less’ Young carers engagement event report

June 2019

**West Yorkshire and Harrogate
Health and Care Partnership**





1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present the findings from the West Yorkshire and Harrogate (WY&H) Health and Care Partnership (HCP) Young Carers event which took place on Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 3M Buckley Innovation Centre in Huddersfield.

This report describes the purpose of the event, the content of the sessions and the feedback we received from carers, voluntary and community organisations and health and care professionals.

2. Purpose of the event

West Yorkshire and Harrogate Integrated Care System (WYHICS) is an innovative and forward-thinking organisation which values a collaborative approach in implementing an ambitious 2018 Workforce Strategy. This strategy aims to ensure access to a skilled and diverse workforce and recruit suitable people into health and care jobs.

WYHICS wanted to develop a mechanism that engages young people with the health and care sector to inspire them to pursue a career in the sector. WYHICS commissioned Ahead Partnership to help them support one of the workforce recommendations set out in the strategy: “Increase the future supply by significantly increasing the number of people training to work in health and social care roles in West Yorkshire and Harrogate”.

WYHICS wanted to raise the aspirations of young carers by helping them to identify and recognise their own skill set and encourage them to pursue a career in the health and social care sector. This has to be achieved through showcasing work opportunities and the diversity of roles available to them.

In addition, WYHICS wanted to ensure young people are prepared for a variable and ever-changing workplace by helping them develop crucial employability skills.



3. Principles and methodology of engagement

WYHICS and Ahead Partnership held a full day ‘Couldn’t Care Less’ young carers engagement event on Tuesday 25 June at 3M Buckley Innovation Centre in Huddersfield. The event provided an opportunity young carers from across Kirklees and Calderdale to come together to develop their skill set and knowledge of roles within the Health and Care sector.

The aim of the event was to:

- Increase the future workforce supply by significantly increasing the number of people training to work in health and social care roles in West Yorkshire and Harrogate.
- Develop key soft skills required in the World of Work.
- Increase awareness of the roles within the Health and Care sector.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate the young carers.
- Offer a chance to young carers for developing their networks with similar people their age.

This event was an essential part of the engagement process and included a wide range of representatives from:

- Primary and secondary care colleagues
- First response
- Comms and tech support

It was important that the event worked in collaboration with all relevant partners and stakeholders within the Partnership.

‘Couldn’t Care Less’ young carers event invites

Schools from Kirkless and Calderdale were targeted for this event. Ahead Partnership contacted over 35 schools from across the area to engage with the desired cohort of students. A 1 pager flyer was created and shared with contacts at the school (appendix 1).

Volunteers from Health and Care professions were invited by WYHICS and LWAB. A targeted invite was sent to roles which require more uptake.

Volunteers from business were invited by Ahead Partnership to offer insight into the world of work and what can be expected when the young carers leave school.



Structure of the day

The day long event was created to be interactive, informative and focus on skills that young carers most needed support on.

The day opened with a welcome speech from Fatima Khan-Shah (Programme Lead, Unpaid Carers Programme) and Amen Dhesi (a former young carer). Fatima explained to the young carers why this event was being run and the expectation of their day.

Amen then shared his journey from young carer to today with the students. He highlighted how his responsibilities when younger had better prepared him for the world of work and how this had led him to the decisions he has made in his career path.

Following the welcome, students took part in a rotation of 3 interactive workshops:

1. Team work

Students started by thinking about all the different teams that they know of and why they work well as a team. Smaller groups of students then had a go at an interactive teamwork activity that required use of different skills including; communication, listening, time management, leadership, teamwork and delegation.

2. Developing confidence in communication

Students took part in a workshop that focussed on developing their confidence when speaking to other people. The session involved a fast paced debating game and top tips for dealing with nerves.

3. Identifying your skills

Students took part in a session that got them thinking about the skills they develop through their responsibilities and how these can be used in Health and Care roles. Participant's watched a video on a young carer and pulled out his responsibilities and skills. They then had time to match up the skills to job descriptions from roles within the sector.

After lunch, all students attended a 'have a go' style careers fair, each stand representing a different role they could pursue in the future. Volunteers from the sector bought equipment and activities that represented what they do, these ranged from sling application to VR headsets. Whilst the session was deemed 'fun' it got the students thinking about the massive variety of jobs that are available and what these look like in reality.





4. Attendance numbers and Equality



**31 young people
from year 8 – 10**



**5 schools
from
Calderdale and
Kirklees**



**16 volunteers
from business
and the health
and care
sector**

Student profile

A total of 5 schools from across Kirklees and Calderdale

All participating students were in year 8 - year 10 (aged 12 – 15 years old)

School Name	Student Total	EAL	SEND	At Risk of NEET	Most Able	Pupil Premium
Honley High School	6		Yes		Yes	Yes
North Huddersfield Trust Academy	7		Yes			Yes
Batleys Girl Grammar School	1	Yes				Yes
Whitcliffe School	2					Yes
Parklane Academy	15		Yes		Yes	Yes



5. Feedback methods and findings

Ahead Partnership carried out various methods to capture feedback from all attendees at the Young Carers Event on Tuesday 25 June.

Methods utilised included:

- **Responder** – iPad questionnaire before and after the event to compare distance travelled across the day. Questions asked on survey:

Are you interested in a role in health and social care?

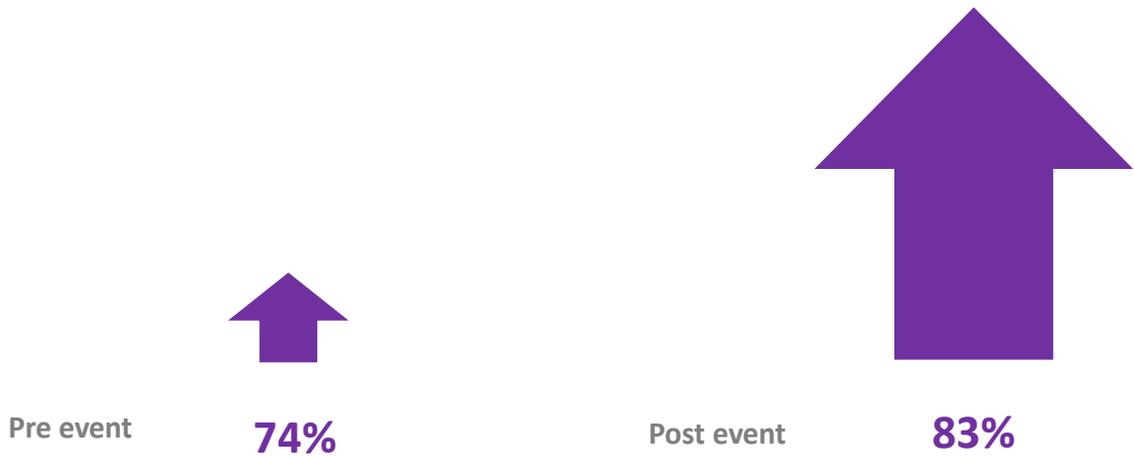
What skills do you think are used in health roles?

- **Post it note answers** – a sheet was stuck up on a wall asking students what roles they could think of in the Health and Social care sector. This was done before and after the event to understand how their knowledge had developed through meeting the various professionals within the sector
- **Feedback survey** – a 1 page feedback survey was given out to all attendees. This form captures their view on the event, what could have been improved and the skills they believe they developed during the day. To gather a holistic view on the session we gave forms to:
 - Students
 - Teachers
 - Volunteers

Findings gathered from the feedback will be used to help shape decisions for future Young Carer's events.



Are you interested in a role in the Health and Care sector?



What skills do you think are used in Health and Care roles?

Skill	Pre	Post
Time-keeping	15	18
Teamwork	22	28
Prioritising	15	15
Caring and compassionate	18	25
Good under pressure	16	19
Problem solving	16	24
Creativity	16	19
Communication	19	25
Flexible	9	13



What roles are available in the Health and Care sector?

Pre

GP

Nurse

Doctor

Social worker

Dentist

Ambulance driver

Midwife

Post

Project Manager

Paramedic

Midwife

Emergency Care Assistant

Communications Officer

Operating Director Practitioner (ODP)

Mental Health Nurse

Social Care Worker

Dentist

GP

Nurse

Graphic Designer





Student Feedback



100% said it helped them think about their own goals



100% say it improved their teamwork skills



100% say it improved their speaking & listening skills



88% say it developed their initiative



100% say it improved their problem-solving skills



85% say it motivated them to work harder at school



100% now feel more optimistic about the future



88% say it increased their confidence

It was interactive and fun

I liked speaking to the people at the different stands and having a go with the equipment they use for work

Today helped me understand all the things I actually do and how helpful they could be in the future

I learnt about the different skills I need when I get a job



The most words mentioned throughout the student feedback surveys:

inspirational
perfect
great
roles
interactive
jobs
future
engaged
longer
interesting

I enjoyed doing the workshops. It helped me practice different skills.

The session was very informative and helped me think about my future

Today helped me take my mind off things and enjoy myself.

I enjoyed meeting new people from different schools



Teacher Feedback

The event was well organised and though provoking.

The students were engaged throughout the day and really enjoyed themselves.

It was nice that some of the volunteers had also been young carers.

All sessions were pitched at the right level even though we had students from Year 8, 9 and 10

It was a very informative day

Today was great as the students got to speak to people in a wide range of roles in the NHS



Volunteer Feedback

The day was organised
and structured

The students seemed really
engaged

Everyone knew what was
happening and timings of
interaction with pupils

Great to have a briefing
call beforehand so I felt
more prepared.

Very good selection of
careers for young people to
find more about – not just
clinical roles.

It was a great opportunity to
speak to you people about
working in a health role



6. Recommendations

Suggestions below taken from the feedback surveys gathered from teachers, volunteers and students.

Students:

- Make the day longer
- More time doing the workshop sessions
- More stands in the afternoon to showcase more of the roles available.

Teacher:

- Provide more opportunity for the students to interact with people from different schools.
- Run at a different time of year as this may have impacted attendance due to exams.
- Suggested months of September, October or July.
- Try speak at the local safe guarding lead meetings to showcase and promote the event.

Volunteer:

- Potentially more of a workshop environment than stalls, as some children were shy to approach stands.

Ahead Partnership:

- Develop more robust links with local authorities and 3rd sector contacts to; better understand the cohort, ensure we have relevant representation from the sector at the event and to provide a clear path into engaging with schools and their young carers cohort
- Consider wording used to ensure young people don't feel alienated/uncomfortable - readjust language used and how we talk about the event
- Involve Amen Dhesi (former young carer) in planning of event
- Increased number of roles for afternoon activity – including social care
- WYHICS to provide data to support target attendee numbers
- Confirm 1 main day to day contact for organising logistics of event (CC other contacts in)
- Agreed timeline with deadlines to ensure project moves at a good pace
- Clarification on roles and responsibilities
- More of collaborative approach on school recruitment as we are unable to access some data that WYHIC's partnerships will allow