Country’s Awareness and Policy Responses to Young Carers: A Matter of Choice

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Country’s Awareness and Policy Responses to Young Carers: A Matter of Choice

1. Introduction
2. Needs of YC & YAC
3. Classification of country-level responses to YC
4. Key factors that influence a country’s awareness and response to YC
5. Discussion
• The objective of Careum Research is to have a decisive impact in the area of innovative and sustainable healthcare provision. It concentrates in particular on domestic and inpatient long-term care and health services research.

• Careum Research focuses consistently on promoting the skills and participation of patients and relatives and on the overriding issue of living with chronic illness.

• Careum Research campaigns for the transfer of methods and specialist knowledge from research to teaching, thereby fulfilling its mandate from the Department of Health of the Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences in its capacity as a research institution.
Since 2007, the topic of compatibility has been sustainably established as a key issue and continuously expanded to include the following additional key research areas:

- Care migration to private households in Switzerland
- Coordination with service providers and cost centers
- Promotion of self-management
- Care and assistance in people’s professional and private lives (double-duty caregiving) and distance caregiving

Since 2014, an additional key research area has focused on children, teenagers and young adults, one aspect of which is known as «learn &care» – the compatibility of school, basic vocational training and university courses with the caring role.
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Research in different countries shows a relatively uniform picture of

- characteristics
- experiences
- needs

of YC & YAC.
Needs of YC & YAC (1/2)

Advice, information and guidance
Money, benefits, grants, careers, services, medical conditions, own health, keeping well, managing care safely, transitions, parenting advice and support

Services and support
Counselling, relaxation, breaks, assessments, emergency planning, transport, housing, aids and adaptations, transitions support

Education and training
Early interventions to reduce inappropriate caring and produce better outcomes, anti-bullying strategies, greater awareness and support in all places of education, advice and assistance about educational opportunities and finances, assistance with balancing demands of learning and caring
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Needs of YC & YAC (2/2)

Job-seeking and careers advice
Careers advice up to 24 years of age and sensitive to caring, advice about flexible training & learning opportunities, job-seeking support and skills training, carer-friendly employment practices and workplace support

Activities and peer support
To promote physical and emotional well-being and inclusion/participation, local leisure services, affordable/subsidised, meet other young adult carers, social networking
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C Choice
A Access
R Respect
E Education
R Recognition
S Support
# Country’s Awareness and Policy Responses to Young Carers: a Matter of Choice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of country-level responses to YC</th>
<th>Level 1-6</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Country Example</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Level 1-6</td>
<td>Characteristics</td>
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<td>Country Example</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Incorporated/Sustainable</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>• Extensive awareness at all levels of the experiences and needs of young carers</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sustained and sustainable policies and interventions aimed at meeting young carers' needs and promoting their health, well-being and development</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Responses built on a foundation of reliable research evidence and clear legal rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Advanced</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>• Widespread awareness and recognition of young carers amongst public, policy makers and professionals</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Extensive and reliable research base</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Specific legal rights (national)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Extensive codes and guidance for welfare professionals and national and local strategies</td>
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<td>• Multiple dedicated services and interventions nationwide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1-6</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>• Some awareness and recognition of young carers among public, policy makers and professionals&lt;br&gt;• Small research base&lt;br&gt;• Partial rights in some regions&lt;br&gt;• Small but developing body of professional guidance&lt;br&gt;• Some dedicated services and interventions nationwide</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Immigration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Preliminary</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Little public or specialist awareness and recognition of young carers&lt;br&gt;• Limited research base&lt;br&gt;• No specific legal rights&lt;br&gt;• Few, if any, dedicated services or interventions at national or local levels</td>
<td>United States&lt;br&gt;Norway&lt;br&gt;Sweden&lt;br&gt;Germany&lt;br&gt;Austria&lt;br&gt;Switzerland&lt;br&gt;Canada&lt;br&gt;New Zealand&lt;br&gt;France</td>
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<td>5 Emerging</td>
<td>• Embryonic awareness of young carers as a distinct social group within the «vulnerable children» population</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa China Japan Taiwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 No-response</td>
<td>• No apparent awareness of policy response to young carers as a distinct social group</td>
<td>All other countries</td>
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Key factors that influence a country’s awareness and response to YC
Key factors that influence a country’s awareness and response to YC

• Role of individuals and young carers themselves
• Reliable research evidence base - a «door opener» for policy transfer
• Legislation and initiatives - a commitment to children's rights
• Leading role of key NGOs and media
Selected literature


Thank you very much for your attention.
Contact

Further information http://www.careum.ch/youngcarers.

Please comment on our BLOG: http://blog.careum.ch/blog/familycare-2/.

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