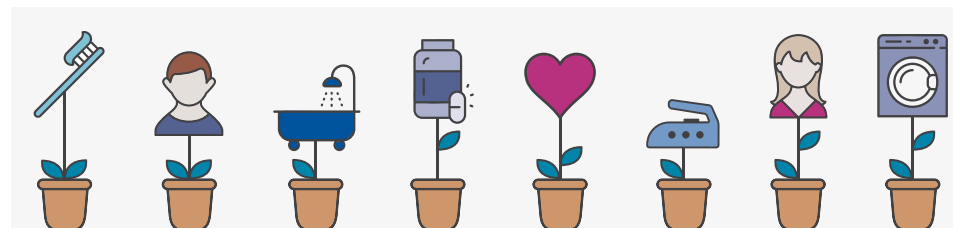




## MAKING THE SYSTEM WORK

# We helped young adult carers get the learning they deserve



At least 314,000 young adults in England and Wales care for members of their family.

Young adult carers are hidden in more ways than one: they often don't class themselves as carers in the first place or are worried about talking about their role.

They often feel isolated – and tend to be at a disadvantage. On average, young adult carers achieve significantly lower GCSE grades. Forty-four per cent report a mental health difficulty – twice the national average.

NIACE has led the sector to look in detail at the distinctive learning challenges young adult carers face. With the help of three carer services we piloted ways to tailor information, advice and guidance to their needs. Young adult carers want the same opportunities as anyone else, but flexibly delivered – for example, different start and finish times and work-from-home options.



## MAKING THE SYSTEM WORK



We produced new resources for carer services and FE colleges. We identified good practice and shared it. And, importantly, we worked to change what happens on the ground, helping providers to be more effective and prevent young adult carers from dropping out, just because the skills system isn't adequately set up to support them.

We called for action at national level too – advocating that young adult carers should be formally identified as a 'vulnerable group' to give them access to 16–19 bursary funding, exempted from the '21 hour' rule in the benefit system for more flexibility, and allowed access to flexible hours traineeships and apprenticeships.



Read our blogs on the three simple policy changes that would make a difference

[www.niace.org.uk/our-thinking/blog/simple-policy-changes-better-support-young-adult-carers](http://www.niace.org.uk/our-thinking/blog/simple-policy-changes-better-support-young-adult-carers)

[www.niace.org.uk/our-thinking/blog/unlocking-talents-young-adult-carers-0](http://www.niace.org.uk/our-thinking/blog/unlocking-talents-young-adult-carers-0)



Watch Emily Hicks tell her story of juggling caring and learning

[www.niace.org.uk/our-thinking/blog/simple-policy-changes-better-support-young-adult-carers](http://www.niace.org.uk/our-thinking/blog/simple-policy-changes-better-support-young-adult-carers)



Read *The Guardian* on our policy changes and their effect on young adult carers

[www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jun/30/easing-burden-young-carers](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jun/30/easing-burden-young-carers)