



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Darlington Carers'

Action Plan

2020-22

Background

A national Carers Action Plan for 2018-20 was published by central government in June 2018. This Action Plan outlined the cross-government programme of work to support carers in England and built on the previous National Carers Strategy. It retained the strategic vision for recognising, valuing and supporting carers from 2008, which has been the vision of successive governments. It also set out the Government's commitment to supporting carers through 64 actions across five priorities emerging from the carers' Call for Evidence. The actions focused on delivery and tangible progress that could be made in the near future, and gave visibility to the wide range of work that was planned or already underway across government to support carers, their families and those they care for.

Despite a stated intention by government to publish plans for carers post 2020, no plans have been published as yet. In addition, the Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in a number of significant challenges to the nation, including a further raising of the profile of carers and their needs.

Darlington's Carers' Action Plan for 2020-22 has been developed by the Darlington Carers' Strategy Steering Group as a local response to the needs of carers and continues to be based on themes identified in the national Carers Action Plan 2018-20, which remain relevant .

- Services and systems that work for carers
- Employment and financial wellbeing
- Supporting young carers
- Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society
- Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers

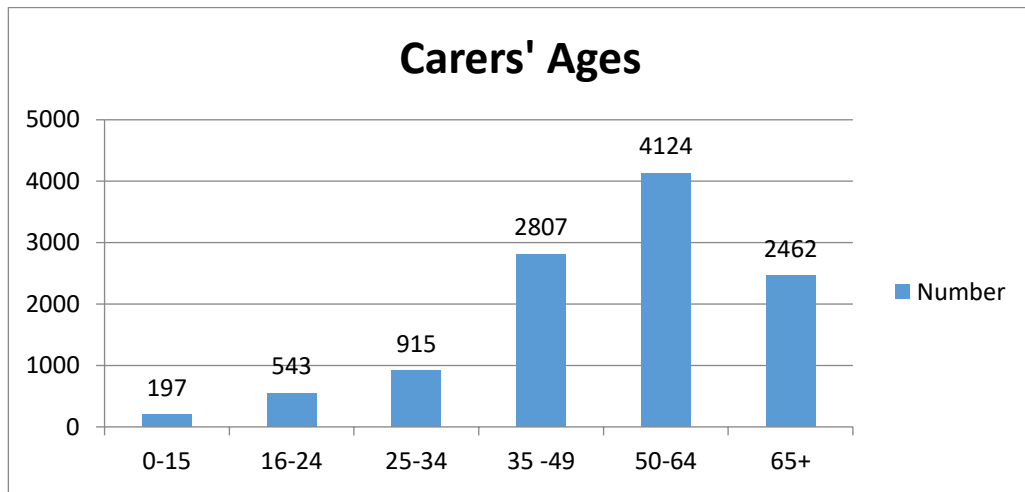
Our aim is to ensure the continuation of responsive support to carers in particularly challenging times.

Demographics

Number of carers in Darlington.

The 2011 census identified a total of 11,004 carers in Darlington, 8389 (76.23%) of whom were of working age.

The age breakdown is shown in the graph below.



Information from Carers UK indicates that 5712 of these were identified as being in employment, either as employees or as self employed.

3168 of those identified as employees were full time and 1729 part time. In addition, 500 were identified as being self employed full time and 228 part time.

2677 were not employed.

Recent research by Carers UK indicates that 1:7 workers are juggling work and care which increases to 1:5 in the NHS.

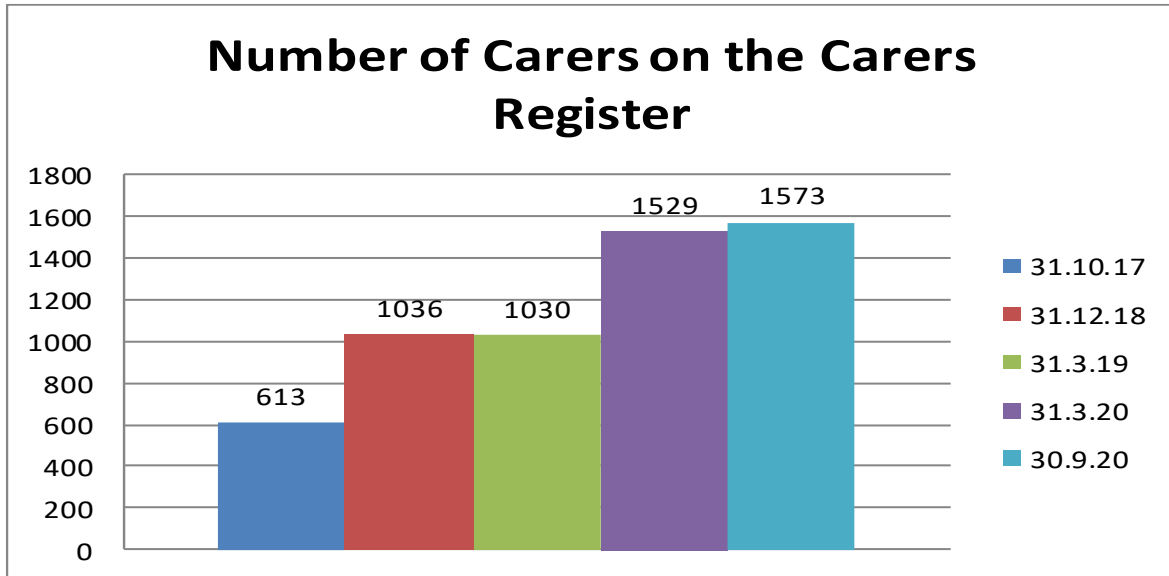
Carers Support Services in Darlington

There are 2 commissioned Carers Support Services in Darlington, one for young carers up to the age of 25 and one for adult carers, including parents of disabled children.

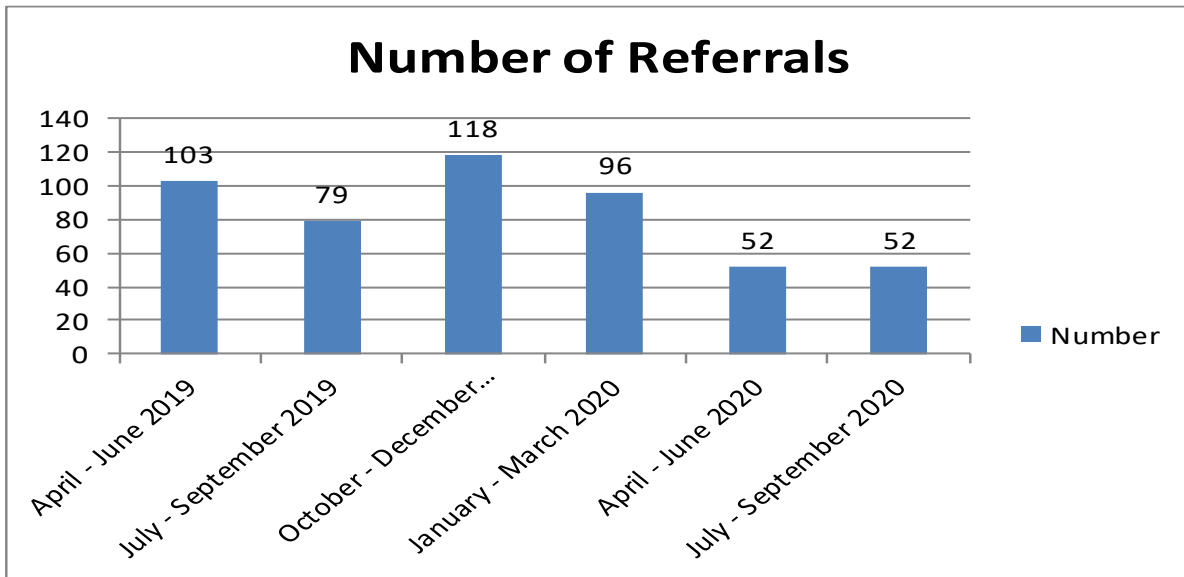
There is open access to both services.

Darlington Carers Support (DCS)

As at 30th September 2020, there were 1573 on the Carers Register held by Darlington Carers Support, an increase of 543 from the number on the register as at 31st March 2019.

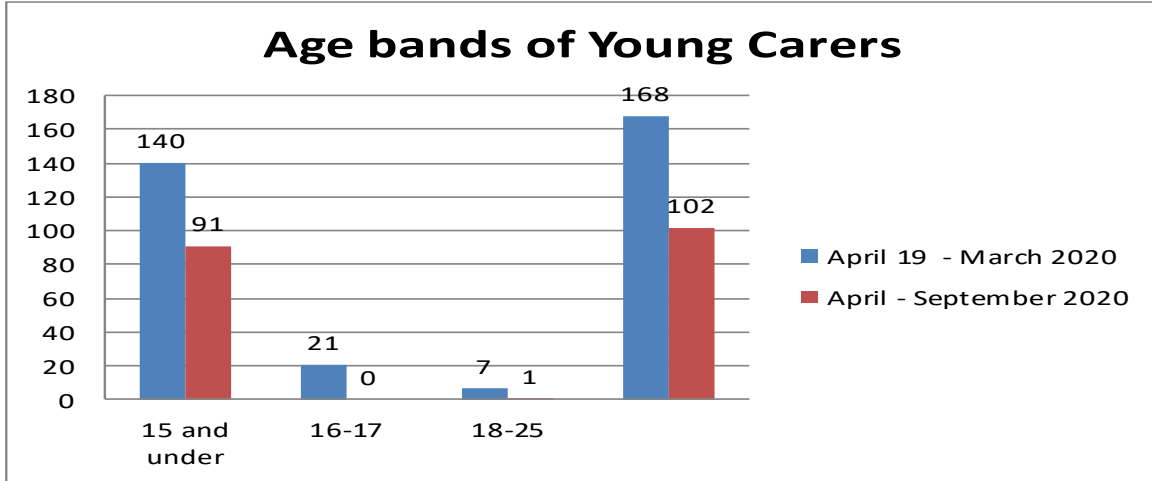


The Service received a total of 396 referrals from 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020, plus 104 referrals from 1st April – 30th September 2020. It should be noted that referrals from 1st April 2020 have been negatively impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic and in particular by the first lockdown [just over half compared to the number of referrals (182) received in the same timeframe the previous year]

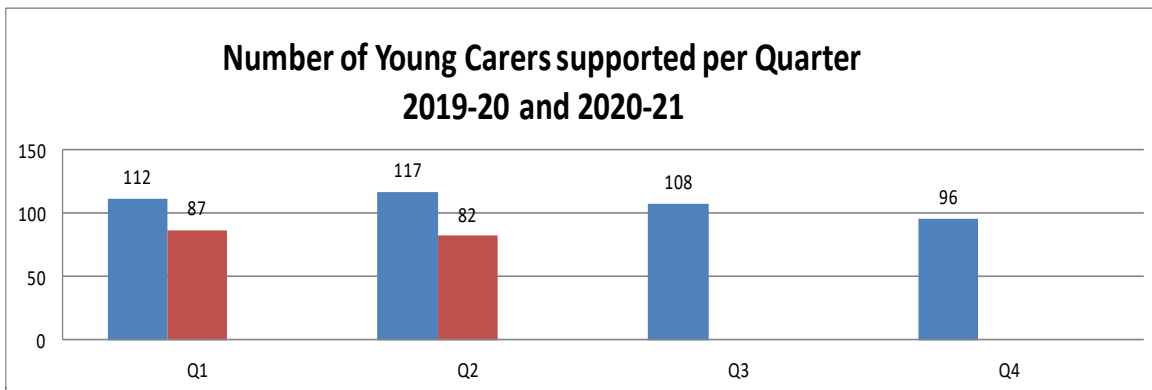


Darlington Young Carers (DYC)

A total of 168 young carers have been supported from 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 and 102 from 1st April – 30th September 2020.



The number of young carers supported in the first two quarters of 2020-21 has decreased by approximately a quarter due to the Covid 19 pandemic.



Members of the Carers Strategy Steering Group (as at 30th November 2020).

Co – Chairs – Jenni Wood (DCS) and Manager DYC (post currently vacant)

Rosemary Berks	DAD
Kelly Carswell	Darlington Mind
Gill Cree	Alzheimer's Society
Alison Donoghue	Darlington Carers Support
Lisa Holdsworth	DBC Commissioning
Helen Hunter	Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington
Diane Lax	Healthwatch
Linda O'Neill	Darlington Young Carers
Deborah Robinson	St Teresa's Hospice
Josh Slack	DBC Commissioning

A number of other people also receive minutes but do not regularly attend meetings.