

BACKGROUND

In 2020, MYTIME Young Carers designed the Level Up Programme to give schools the tools they need to identify and support young carers. The mission of this programme was to create real and sustainable change for young carers by improving their educational experiences.

The programme was designed through a collaboration between MYTIME staff several of whom were former teachers, local schools in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP) and former young carers.

WHAT WE DID

Working with the support of BCP council and several local schools, we launched a pilot of the Level Up Programme. We began by delivering high quality CPD which trained teachers to identify young carers and gave them tangible strategies for supporting young carers in their classrooms.

We delivered assemblies to all students to help them self-identify as young carers and pointed them in the direction of a person in school who could support them. We also helped schools develop policies and set up young carer groups.

2023 CENSUS

In 2023 for the first time the school census included young carers. Schools were asked to identify the young carers they were aware of, although this was optional and not made compulsory.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

Only 25% of schools across England identified any young carers on the census. This is disappointing but not unexpected, as currently schools are not expected to track or support young carers.

2023 CENSUS ANALYSIS

**AS OF JUNE
2023 MYTIME
YOUNG CARERS
WORKS WITH 74
OF THE 94
SCHOOLS IN BCP**

**THE LEVEL UP
PROGRAMME IS
WORKING!**

FINDING 1: PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN BCP

Primary schools in England identified that an average of 0.3% of their students were young carers. Primary schools in BCP identified that 1.4% of their pupils were young carers, making BCP schools the most effective in England at identifying young carers.

This is truly exceptional and a testament to the schools that have worked alongside MYTIME. We have been privileged to witness the enormous commitment and tenacity schools have shown in developing their provision for young carers and it has paid off. If young carers are known to their schools, they can receive greater, tailored support and access to vital opportunities such as breaks from their caring role.

FINDING 2: SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BCP

Secondary schools in England identified that an average of 0.6% of their students were young carers. Secondary schools in BCP identified an enormous 2.5% of their pupils as young carers. Again, making BCP schools the most effective in England at identifying young carers.

This is an outstanding achievement and proves that with the right, sustained support schools can develop their knowledge, skills and the tools needed to both identify and support young carers. MYTIME is incredibly proud to be working alongside these schools and delighted that the Level Up Programme really does make a difference.