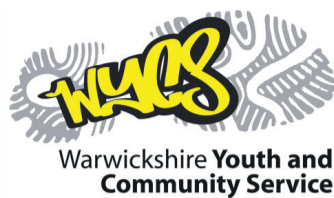


Hello!... We are a group of six teenagers who have volunteered our time to give you the real news, the real views from the real teens in your area!



The People Who Truly Care: Young Carers



By Gary Hughes, Stephanie Harrison, Tom Law and Jennifer Kirby.

Life today for any teenager can often be tough, but for some it can be exceptionally harder. 'Caring' for a loved one isn't anything out of the ordinary, but 'to care' is a big responsibility and unique sacrifice.

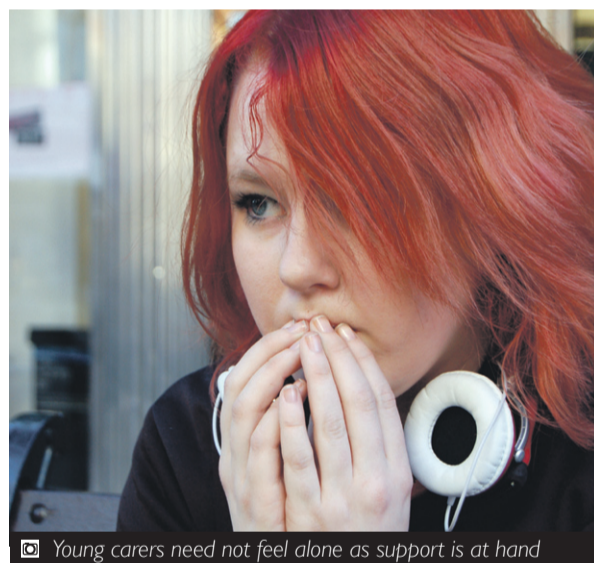
While their friends are out enjoying themselves and living the typical teenage life, some young people instead spend their free time taking care of a family member that suffers from some sort of illness or disability.

Young carers often find themselves living in the shadows of people their own age, as although they do not suffer from a disability themselves, they often fall victim to the effects: not only can their situation be misconstrued by teachers and peers, they can also feel isolated, lonely and overwhelmed by the stresses of juggling school and caring for a loved one full-time.

But they are not alone. There are many young people today in similar situations, but with the same solution: Warwickshire Young Carers. This group is provided by young carers, for young carers, and offers an environment where those between the ages of eight and 18 can meet and relax for a while, have fun, or even do homework. "Everyone is in the same situation and everyone understands how you feel," said Kira, 15. "I want to tell other young carers that they have got somewhere to go, they don't have to be alone".

Funded by Warwickshire County Council and external sources such as Children in Need, the group meets every fortnight offering a range of group activities from skiing trips, crafts, cooking and sports, to simply providing a place to relax for a short time with other young carers who fully understand.

Warwickshire Young Carers are always happy to welcome new carers or volunteers into the mix, so don't hesitate to get in touch – be a part of their group and show the world the true meaning of caring!



Young carers need not feel alone as support is at hand

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The World is in Your Hands

By Jennifer Kirby

Most teenagers are regularly asked 'what are you going to do in the future?' But what if the future you envisage suddenly disappears?

I'm not talking Day After Tomorrow huge tidal wave hitting America or anything but simply how climate change can affect you personally. Climate change is about more extreme events so, as much as we often wish for a snowy day when an exam looms or a really hot summer, the effects on the future could be devastating.

Crop yields could decline which, coincidentally, means an increase in food price - I don't know about you but I already find scraping around for lunch money hard enough! The best thing about now though is

you have the ability to shape the future to the way you want it, in more ways than one. Climate change is happening and we need to reduce our effects on the environment - unless you like waving goodbye to cheap meals and a 'steady' climate?

So start with the little things. Did you know that at a local college in Nuneaton 70% of students never recycled their mobile phone? You can get money for that! And let's face it as students we need all the money we can get.

So go recycle that mobile! There are plenty of companies online that will be more than happy to buy your phone, so shop around.

It's not all about the recycling though. Try something new. Why not try buying locally farmed fruit and veg? It's healthy and will reduce carbon emissions so is a win-win situation.

It's never too late to change your future so why not give it a go - what have you got to lose? Well except for a little bit of your carbon footprint!

Your Community Needs You!!

By Chantal Hodgson

There are many reasons why young people use their spare time to volunteer: It can help them gain experience, build confidence and create a sense of purpose. It is also a way to gain new skills, to meet new people and to help others in their community.

Many young people are volunteering!

Young people can get involved from DJ'ing at their local youth club to working in their local charity shop. The opportunities are endless, from working with disabled children, promoting recycling, fundraising and mentoring other young people to school council and environmental work.

This very page has actually been designed and written by a group of young volunteers. They have given up their free time in order to tell their community about issues that concern young people whilst gaining invaluable experience in Journalism.

Volunteering will improve your CV and look fantastic in an interview. I personally have improved my communication skills and I am now more confident through volunteering.

If you would like to do some volunteering or find out more then go onto the vInspired website (www.vinspired.com) and have a browse around at the volunteering offers!

Teenage tribulations: The struggle for equality

By Tom Law

Young people are highly stereotyped by the older generation because of a small minority of unruly young people.

As a young person myself, I have been on the receiving end of this discriminatory abuse from shop goers and security guards, simply because of my status as a student and a teenager. Regardless of the grades we receive, the volunteer work we do, people continue to stereotype us as if it's their right - they're wrong! Yes a minority of young people do cause troubles - these individuals should be dealt with severely. So why do all young people suffer this treatment, when the majority are model, polite and talented citizens? In a shopping centre with my friends, just sitting and talking, two security guards approach us and ask us to leave immediately. I was shocked: but not surprised. Like clockwork,

we returned only the next day to be faced with similar prejudice; same time, same place, same way. People with knives do the damage - I wear a hoody because I'm cold!

I think that the media is partly responsible for this negative view of young people, after all, bad news sells better than good news, but that is no excuse for an incorrect stereotype of young people.

It saddens me that in today's democracy young people are still abused. In a world so politically correct, it is hard to believe that young people are still stereotyped and discriminated against: if sexism is frowned upon, why isn't ageism treated in a similarly discouraging manner? It's up to you to consider how you treat young people and think before you act!



Yobbo or model citizen?