

New partnership announced to support young carers who may become young adult carers!



PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 6 October

Carer charities announce partnership to support young carers

Today (6 October) marks European Carers Day, a multi-national campaign which aims to drive recognition of caring across Europe. This year's focus is on young carers, with organisations being asked to identify, listen and support our young people with caring responsibilities.

In Edinburgh, VOCAL (Voice of Carers Across Lothian), Edinburgh Young Carers, Space and Capital Carers have announced a new partnership to support young carers who may become young adult carers.

European Carers Day highlights the importance of collaboration, recognising that goals can be achieved more efficiently and effectively in partnership. The transition from young to adult carer is an important milestone and this new Edinburgh partnership will support a smooth transition for young carers at a critical time in their lives.

The partnership will focus on being person-centred and ensuring that the most relevant services are provided based on a young person's needs, wants and circumstances.

Margaret Murphy, CEO, Edinburgh Young Carers said:

"Many young carers go unnoticed or unrecognised and our work focuses on identifying young carers at that early stage to prevent a crisis. The transition from 'young' carer to 'adult' carer can be an emotional and difficult journey and we welcome this new development to further support Edinburgh's vast network of carers."

Sebastian Fischer, CEO, VOCAL added:

“VOCAL is taking part in European Carers Day for the second year running. Our charity advocates partnerships locally, nationally and across Europe, as geographical boundaries don’t apply when it comes to the challenges and issues faced by carers. Developing links between young and adult carer support organisations will provide better support for young people.”

Space, Amanda Farquhar, Service Manager, Youth and Families explained:

“As a community organisation working with families in such ranging circumstances, we see first-hand the impact of caring on a young person’s wellbeing, both physically and mentally throughout their lives. Building on our Young Adult Carers project, this is an important step in helping Edinburgh’s young people and we are looking forward to developing innovative approaches to caring.”

Capital Carers, Manager, Ron Carthy said:

“We know that there are approximately 5,000 young carers in Edinburgh, but we are acutely aware that this doesn’t include those who don’t consider themselves as carers or those who took on caring responsibilities as a result of the pandemic. Identifying young carers early, and supporting them through relevant pathways will have the powerful potential to reduce harm and create positive impact.”

To find out more about the support available to carers in Edinburgh, visit:

- VOCAL, www.vocal.org.uk
- Edinburgh Young Carers, www.youngcarers.org.uk
- Capital Carers, www.capitalcarers.org
- Space, www.spacescot.org

Notes to editors:

1. VOCAL is the Voice of Carers Across Lothian, a Scottish charity run by carers and for carers since 1994. VOCAL delivers support to unpaid carers through two carer centres in Edinburgh and Midlothian, and through staff based in the community.
2. Edinburgh Young Carers is a voluntary organisation that provides respite and support to young people between the ages of 5 and 25 who care for somebody at home.
3. Space is a community anchor organisation supporting 100’s of local people and families in South West Edinburgh, with some of our services stretching city wide.
4. Capital Carers (formerly known as North West Carers Centre) is a small grassroots organisation, providing tailor-made services to unpaid carers of all ages and the people they care for, for over 20 years.