



Nottinghamshire
Carers
Association

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Nottinghamshire Young Carers Take the Lead!

Nottinghamshire Carers Association



Nottinghamshire Carers Association (NCA) - Retford Oaks Academy (ROA) and a Young Carer impacting national strategies

A year 11 student (Finlay) who attends Retford Oaks Academy (ROA) has been instrumental in helping the Carers Trust in influencing Government, Politicians and Educationalists in highlighting the need for support of young carers nationally. This has been achieved by the close liaison between NCA, ROA and the Carers Trust. Finlay was part of the group of young carers from across the country whose actions culminated in the handing in a letter to No 10 Downing Street for the attention of the Prime Minister. They were also fundamental in the gathering of information for the publication of the All-Parliamentary Group for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers report (APPG) on Life Opportunities. A hugely significant report and a first of its kind. The group were invited to attend the House of Lords launch of this report.

Nottinghamshire Young Carer takes a lead

Andy Tomkins (Education Liaison) met with Andy McGowan the Policy and Practice Manager for the Carers Trust and the ROA young carer lead, in May 2023. This was with a view to supporting a group of young carers to put together a letter to the Children's Commissioner for schools. This letter requested a meeting to discuss young carers in education and how support within schools could be improved. Dame De Souza the Children's commissioner for England, invited the four young people to a meeting in London at the Department of Education (DfE) offices in June 2023 to discuss their concerns.

Attending The Children's Commissioner for England 'Roundtable forum' meeting

Finlay and his Mother, along with NCA Education Liaison link and the ROA Young Carer Lead, attended a meeting at the DfE which was chaired by Dame De Souza, Martin Oliver the Ofsted Chief Inspector of schools, CEO's of Lead Academies and Charities and four young carers. All took part fully in the debate around improving school leadership to improve young carers support in schools.



Finlay and Mum



DfE meeting in London with Young Carers participating in the round table forum - A linked room on teams also contributed to the meeting.

Nottinghamshire Young carer takes the message to Westminster

Finlay and the other Young carers from across the UK delivered a letter that was produced by the group to No 10 Downing Street. This was received by Oliver Dowden MP (Deputy PM) The letter highlighted the need to support young carers when considering their Life Opportunities and the need for greater support from the Government.



Delivered to No 10 Downing Street

Attending the APPG Report Launch at the House of Lords

No 10 was swiftly followed by the launch of the APPG report. The first ever parliamentary inquiry into young and young adult carers that revealed a lack of support is having a devastating impact on their education, wellbeing and future prospects. Through the coordinated support to Finlay via NCA, School, Family and the carers Trust, Finlay was able to contribute fully to the process using his life experiences and his expectations for his future pathways.



Finlay and Andy Tomkins (NCA) at the House of Lords reception.



Finlay, (back left) and the Young Carers in the House of Lords



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