

Dear Secretary of State for Health and Social Care,

Thank you for all the work you are doing during these difficult times.

I am writing to you about the rights of young carers in the unprecedented climate of Covid-19. The publication of The Coronavirus Bill has included some genuinely life-saving measures in helping The UK combat the spread of infection. Unfortunately the suspension of The Care Act and the impact of Covid-19 is placing unprecedented stress upon the 700,000 young carers we have in the UK and the person(s) they care for – many of whom have underlying health conditions. Carers UK and Carers Trust have made a joint statement, calling for immediate action. I kindly ask you to consider:

- The continuity of key medical supplies (e.g key medication or equipment such as peg feeding or oxygen tanks) and products carers often buy themselves (e.g incontinence products, wipes, disinfectant) to young carers.
- Information systems like 111 to start collecting data on whether someone is a young carer and ask anyone who either reports symptoms or has to self-isolate if they provide an important level of care to someone who might be vulnerable. This should then lead to an appropriate response from the authorities.
- Assurance that individuals who have high personal care needs that only a highly skilled care worker or nurse can provide will continue to have their needs met.
- Schools to have a responsibility to nominate a lead person to make contact with young carers during this time and sign post them to appropriate services.
- Increased financial support for local young carer services in helping young carers balance their needs with the needs of the person needing care and support.

A society is judged by how it looks after its most in need, especially in difficult times. Please keep me updated on any developments in regards to young carers and I look forward to hearing from you soon.