

PE1470/I

South Lanarkshire Council Letter of 8 April 2013

- What are your views / experience on the issues raised in the petition?
- How well do the policies aimed at supporting the needs of young carers work in practice?

South Lanarkshire Council provides support for young carers as part of a dedicated young carers' service. The Council also supports a Young Carers Forum, a formally constituted group, chaired and organised by young carers, which provides a place for young carers to raise issues and discuss possible solutions with relevant officers and services.

From our experience in working with young carers we recognise the issues raised in the petition. We are committed to supporting young carers to have a life as young people as well as carers, and would support any action that would help young carers to continue their education and studies in spite of their caring responsibilities. We trust that any further action to introduce a young carers grant would be accompanied by adequate funding to ensure that local authorities were not obliged to remove funding from other services, many of which are already under pressure due to financial constraints.