

Research and practice shows that children in families where there is misuse of alcohol often take on a range of caring responsibilities which impact on their own personal, social and educational development

It is very important that agencies working with clients who misuse alcohol and who are parents consider the needs of the children in a range of contexts and work with the family has a whole assessing and supporting any parenting needs.

Schools also have key role to play not only in educating children about sensible drinking and dangers of abuse but in informing children of lines of help if they are concerned that someone in their family may be drinking too much.

Young carers projects work with many such young people and try at all times to adopt holistic whole family approaches and work with other lead agencies.

It is also important that there is an accessible pathway for those children who recognise they are in need and want to seek help before their parents have recognised they need to get help.

The Children's Society have just published a practice guide for those working in this field which has a forward written by Jaquie Smith MP and Stephen Twigg MP. "Making it Work" is available from The Children's Society Tel 0207 841 4415. and contains practice recommendations for all young carers including those caring for parents who abuse alcohol. If you want a copy please email a contact name and address and I will arrange for one to be delivered.

The Young Carers Initiative is funded by the Department of Health and consults with children, families and practitioners to inform development of both policy and practice.. For more information visit our website. See below

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The Children's Society