Carers: Young People

Written Question.

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of carers under the age of 18 (a) nationally, (b) in Devon and (c) in Totnes Constituency.

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

There is no national data collected as to the number of young carers identified at local level or constituency level.

The 2001 Census "snap-shot" indicated that 139,000 children and young people across England were offering some care. Of these, some 22,000 (16%) were reported to be caring for substantial periods of time - between 20 and 50 hours or more a week. These figures are likely to represent an under-estimate as caring roles resulting from parental substance misuse are not included.

The 2011 Census will provide more up to date national and local authority level data on the number of young carers.

They Work For You

Sarah Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of people under the age of 18 years who provided care for a parent with an alcohol-related condition in (a) 2007-08, (b) 2008-09, and (c) 2009-10.

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

There is no centrally collected national data as to the number of people under the age of 18 years providing care for a parent with an alcohol-related condition.

The 2001 Census day "snap-shot" indicated that some 139,000 children across England were offering some care to family, neighbours, or friends. Of these, some 22,000 (16%) were reported to be caring for substantial periods of time - between 20 and 50 hours or more per week. These figures are likely to represent an under-estimate as caring roles resulting from parental substance misuse are not included.

The National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, 2004, found that up to 1.3 million children live with parents who misuse alcohol.

They Work For You

Hansard