

PRESS RELEASE-

29 July 2019

**ITV- Ross Kemp Living with series
(episode 2-young carers)**

Greater Manchester charity, Gaddum is pleased to announce that their work with young carers in Salford (Greater Manchester) will be shared to millions of viewers on ITV at 7.30pm this Thursday 1 August as part of a new series, Ross Kemp-Living with...

Ross Kemp-*Living with...* Is a brand new four-part series on ITV, STV and UTV, in which he travels across the country to meet people living with some of the biggest issues affecting Britain today, including immersing himself in situations to gain a first-hand taste of the difficulties they face and highlight what is really going on, often unnoticed, under the nose of mainstream society.

The second episode of this series is about the hidden crisis of young carers. It's believed that as many as 800,000 people under the age of 18 care for sick parents or siblings: one in 20 children in Britain.

Gaddum Carers Service listen to what support is needed by young carers, deliver that support where possible and lobby for change across Greater Manchester where necessary in order to help carers voices be heard. We have worked in Salford for nearly 20 years supporting carers of all ages including young carers (young people up to the age of 18) and young adult carers (young people 18 – 25).

A carer is someone of any age who supports, unwaged, a relative, partner or friend who due to physical or mental illness, disability, frailty or addiction could not manage without that support.

Our work with young carers is to build their confidence in and resilience to their caring roles including offering emotional and practical support. This work also provides a safe space to talk, express themselves and have respite from their caring responsibilities.

Our service for young carers in Salford is featured in this episode and filmed during the creation of a play titled, 'A time to bloom'. A group of young people, who access Gaddum's, carers services worked for almost a year with The Lowry and The Knotted Project to create and perform a powerful play all focussed around their personal experiences of being a young carer. The play features hard hitting subjects such as alcohol abuse, bullying, depression, people's negative perceptions caring for multiple people and bereavement.

Ross Kemp attended several rehearsals of this play and spoke to young carers in this group from aged 11-18 to find out what being a young carer means to them, managing stereotypes and the challenges they face along with what support is available to them.

Lynne Stafford, Chief Executive, Gaddum comments;

“Young carers are hidden heroes in our society. It is often that their needs and those of the person for whom they are caring are often only identified at crisis point. Even then, the extent of their caring role and the impact on their own development may not be recognised quickly or fully assessed. Gaddum hopes that by working with Ross Kemp and ITV, this will help raise this important subject on what needs to be done to support young carers locally and nationally including where interventions need to be actioned before crisis point comes in.”

For details of our carers services or about the work Gaddum delivers, please visit www.gaddum.org.uk or email charlotte.brown@gaddum.org.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Gaddum is one of Manchester's oldest charities. Set up in 1833, its vision is to support Greater Manchester's most vulnerable adults, children and families.

We are focused on empowering people and enhancing lives through being innovative, forging partnerships and building relationships. No matter what service you use, or what problems you're facing, Gaddum will be the friend you need.

Gaddum is an established charity offering a range of health and social care services empowering and enhancing the lives of people in greater Manchester We have three main focus areas: •therapy services (including palliative and bereavement support) •statutory advocacy •carers support service (including provision for young people) As a provider for making lives better, our work includes counselling, advocacy, advice, family and individual support along with training and development programmes for individuals, families, agencies, local and health authorities, professionals and companies We currently work in six Greater Manchester authorities, Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport and Wigan.

To find our more information, refer a person or family to one of our services, please visit our website gaddum.org.uk