

IMPACT REPORT

Young Carers Centre

2016-2017



Gaddum's Salford Young Carers Service is part of the Salford Carers Centre and has been supporting young carers aged 24 and under since 2000. The Gaddum Centre is Manchester's oldest health & social care charity, it was established in 1834, and runs a number of services across Greater Manchester.

We aim to raise awareness and increase identification of young carers, reduce inappropriate caring and support young carers.



1. We support approx. 300 young carers aged 24 and under each year by trying to **minimise the impact of the caring role and working with young people to build up their resilience.**

2. With our help young carers and their families are better supported, **the impact of the caring role on the young person is reduced** and barriers are removed that may prevent the young carer from achieving along with their peers.

3. We raise awareness of young carers issues with **professionals in both the statutory and voluntary sectors** to enable them to identify and appropriately support young people with caring responsibilities.

“At Salford Young Carers we collect positive thoughts: joy, hope love, understanding, fun, peace, courage and heal.”

“We let go of our worries, tell somebody about our worries and have fun and be silly.”

4. We provide support through group and individual work. This can take the form of weekly sessions in the community or in school. We have residential trips as well as occasional one off projects delivered in

partnership with organisations including The Lowry and Ordsall Hall.

5. With our help there is now a broader understanding of the issues faced by young carers and a realistic understanding within school of their challenges. This **enables them to access appropriate support** and the barrier of stigma is also removed.

6. Self-esteem is raised to a level in which young carers are able to access the **National Citizens Scheme**. In addition 15 are on the **Young Carer's Board** and have met regularly with **MPs** and other stakeholders, 1 has been in a **BBC** documentary, 2 appeared on **BBC Breakfast** and several were interviewed for national newspapers.

7. Many of our young carers achieve educationally and are able to move on from their caring situations. For example 2 are currently abroad on **university exchange programs**, 1 is about to start an **MA at Salford University** having achieved a first class Music degree.

8. We tailor our work so we are delivering **specialist carer support**. Many schools in the city are on board and understand the value of identifying and supporting young carers, **we would like to replicate this relationship with the NHS health services.**