

The logo for LUNG, with the letters in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'U' is filled with a red and black pattern.The logo for the gaddum centre. It features the word 'the' in a small, orange, lowercase font, 'gaddum' in a large, pink, lowercase font, and 'centre' in a smaller, orange, lowercase font below it. To the right of 'gaddum' is a pink speech bubble icon. Below the text is the tagline 'listening • advising • supporting' in a small, grey, lowercase font.The logo for THE LOWRY. It features a black silhouette of a boat on the water above the words 'THE LOWRY' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Date: 4th April 2019

### **UK tour for play about lives of hidden young carers**

A play about young carers in Salford that “knocked MPs sideways” is about to embark on a national tour in June 2019.

The show, *Who Cares*, was written by Matt Woodhead and co-produced by The Lowry and LUNG. It was made in partnership with Greater Manchester Charity, Gaddum and its Salford Carers Service and is funded by Arts Council England and the Oglesby Charitable Trust.

It features 200 hours of interviews with 4 young carers from Salford about their lives – as well as input from their families and schoolteachers. Local councillors and MP, Barbara Keeley, were also interviewed - along with GP’s and young carers’ workers in the city-region.

The play aims to help identify ‘hidden’ young carers in the UK – those who provide care under the radar of their friends, schoolteachers and local authorities - as well as signpost them to the support available. The tour also aims to provide resources for professionals that work with young carers on a daily basis by offering CPD training and workshops.

The tour opens at Folkestone Quarterhouse in Kent on 4th June and then travels to Action Transport Theatre, Merseyside on 11<sup>th</sup> June, Rosehill Theatre, Cumbria on 18<sup>th</sup> June, CAST Doncaster, South Yorkshire on 25<sup>th</sup> June, Arts Depot, London on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and Battersea Arts Centre, London on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Venues have been chosen with the express purpose of presenting the work in areas of deprivation - where the need for support services is strongest – and where there are low levels of engagement in live theatre. Across the tour, it is hoped the work will be seen by more than 4,000 people.

Julia Fawcett OBE, chief executive of The Lowry, said: “Sharing the inspirational stories of young carers from Salford with audiences across the UK is a real privilege and a vital part of the campaign to raise awareness of this, often hidden, issue.”

*Who Cares* premiered to critical acclaim at The Lowry in November 2016, and embarked on a 27-non theatre venue tour in 2017 that reached over 3000 young people.

A number of young carers were identified and 97% of young people who saw it said it changed their perception of young carers.

The production also performed at the House of Lords in December 2017 to MPs & policy makers in they were 'knocked sideways' by the story.

The 2017 national tour was made possible thanks to funding from The Oglesby Charitable Trust and Curious Minds.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

### **About LUNG**

Founded in Barnsley in 2012, LUNG is a verbatim and documentary touring theatre company who make work with communities, for communities and about communities. LUNG create work that shines a light on political, social and economic issues in modern Britain using people's actual words to tell their stories. Previous shows include: *The 56*, *E15* and *Chilcot*. LUNG are Associate Artists at The Lowry. <http://lungtheatre.co.uk/>

### **About Gaddum**

Salford Carers Service is part of Gaddum. At Gaddum, we treat everyone as individuals. We really get to know those we help, understanding their world to offer a range of support that's right for them. Our promise of tailored support is made possible by our breadth and depth of knowledge, through our unwavering commitment to the local people of Greater Manchester.

Gaddum Carers Service listen to what support is needed by 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.

For information, please visit [www.gaddumcentre.co.uk](http://www.gaddumcentre.co.uk)