## Young carers prove a hit in the studio

## Aspiring rock stars get a chance to sing and record

## FEATURE

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group of young Derbyshire carers are learning to make themselves heard after forming a

The aspiring rock stars, all aged 10-12, recently launched their first song, Because We Care - Look at Me Now, on community radio station Amber Sound.

Ethan Harrison, 12, said, "This was great. I never thought I could do something like this. Making this record was my chance to have a break and

Mum Roxy said: "I'm so proud to hear my son's music on the radio."

The band was assembled by two organisations working with the youngsters, Derbyshire Carers Association (DCA) and Amber Valley Young Car-

DCA activities coordinator Cullen Marshall said: "This project has been a blast and we're really proud of what we've created

"I believe this has opened a musical door for a hidden group of young people who likely wouldn't get chance to do something like this." In April last year, DCA began to introduce more creative activities for the young people it supports, realising their need for more opportunities to ex-

With funding secured from Derbyshire County Council and the Amber Valley Public Health Locality Fund, DCA

press themselves.

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brought professional musicians from Derby charity Gateway Soundz to work with the youngsters.

After writing their tune in one day, they decamped to the Soundhub studio in Belper and brought in the Rock of Ages choir to flesh out their vision. All the young carers involved have spoken highly about the project, saying it has expanded their world view, having been shown behind the scenes of the music industry and the feeling of being a musician. DCA spokesman Amanda Gowing said: "This project has really tapped into a lot of elements the young carers might not get to experience." "They are very proud of what

had this wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of young carers both locally and

Josh Wimbledon, 11, added: "Making music has helped me with my confidence."

The whole process was filmed start to finish by Swadlincote company, Front Row Films. which then edited it into a music video which will soon be

they have achieved and to have nationally."

the outcome and the carers' thoughts, we would be able to raise the profile of what a young carer experiences, to promote the great work they

use of music. "They guided the project from the beginning through to the

do, through the therapeutic

available on the Young Carers end, and are now the proud DCA YouTube page. owners of their own song and Cullen said: "We felt that by documenting the process,

He added: "This introduction to music will hopefully inspire a creative streak in their own personal development, and maybe others.

A group of young carers have recorded a charity song, pictured are the young people with project leaders and charity staff.

Alfie Brooker, 12, said: "I'm so proud of what we've achieved. I loved seeing myself on the video. "It's actually quite nice because I feel that if speech was counted, then we spoke out. I really enjoyed it."

Amanda said: "We would like to thank James Reader from Front Row Films, plus Dan Williams, Zara Shakespeare. Rory McColgan, Tom Carter, Teresa Williams, Joe Brown. all from Gateway Sounds, for their help."





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