

new

JUST ME & MUM!

Mummy's helper...
Antonia-Rae and
her mother Lesley

Meet the children caring for a seriously ill parent

There are currently 700,000 young people caring for a loved one in the UK. Many are just like 11-year-old Antonia-Rae from Greater Manchester, who looks after her single mum Lesley after she suffered a stroke and was left paralysed down the right side of her body.

'I have to do the housework and make sure she takes her tablets,' says Antonia-Rae. 'Sometimes I have to help wash her, which is quite strange.'

Health hopes

Young brothers Tom, 10, and Joe, 14, from Stockport, are also looking after a sick parent at their home. Their mum Vicky has a rare liver condition, and she has deteriorated over the last two years. Without a liver transplant, she has only months to live. As their dad works long hours, the boys are her main carers.

'Since I was born, Mum's been poorly so I've not known any different,' says Tom, who features with his

LOOKING AFTER MUM

Wednesday, 10.35pm

(Scot, 11.35pm) BBC1 *Factual*

brother in an emotional one-off documentary for *Children in Need*.

After suffering an infection, Vicky is put to the top of the transplant list. Fortunately, a donor is found and the op is a success. This means Vicky's health will improve dramatically so Tom and Joe can start to enjoy a normal childhood. 'I'm looking forward to the future,' says Tom. 'It's really exciting!' ■



Family unit... Vicky with Joe and Tom (right)