



Media release

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Achievements of North East youngsters to be celebrated at annual awards night

Inspirational young people from across the North East will be celebrated for their positive work in the community at an awards ceremony in Gateshead on Thursday 8 December.

The PoSBOs (Positive Social Behaviour Order), now in their seventh year, celebrate and recognise the hard work and outstanding achievements made by North East youngsters.

The awards, which are taking place at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, are hosted annually by Youth Focus: North East, a charity that works across the region to improve the lives of young people. Local funny man Hal Branson is returning to co-host the awards alongside the steering group and entertainment is being provided by three young and exciting North East acts.

The awards aim to challenge and change negative perceptions and stereotypes of young people, with the event entirely organised by a group of young volunteers, formerly involved in the Truth about Youth programme.

We are also proud to announce that in recognition of Jodie Wilkinson's volunteering with us on the Truth About Youth project – the original home of the PoSBOs – and her tragic death this year we are renaming the Inspirational Young Person or Group Award the Jodie Wilkinson Inspirational Award.

There are eight awards up for grabs on the evening:

- **The Jodie Wilkinson Inspirational Award**
Newcastle Carers, 18-24, Newcastle
Tom Charlton, 15, Gateshead
- **Best Youth Project**
Game-Con, 19, Hartlepool
North Tyneside Disability Youth Forum, 7-25, North Tyneside
Silx Employability Project, 16-19, Northumberland
- **Positive Action Award (sponsored by The Key)**
NCS Team Fog, 16-17, Gateshead
NCS Xmas in August, 16-17, Gateshead
Youthwise, 16-22, Newcastle
- **Young Carer Award (sponsored by the Rotary Club of Newcastle upon Tyne West)**
Michaela Fuller, 19, Newcastle
Robert Oughton, 21, Gateshead

- **Young Volunteer Award**
Drew Watson, 16, Durham
Nicholas Keeney, 25, Gateshead
Paul Cozens, 21, Northumberland
- **Young Employee Award (sponsored by Northern TUC)**
Kate Thompson, Durham
Lindsay Maudling, 25, Tyne and Wear
Stacie Cox, 25, Northumberland
- **Digital Youth Award**
Katie Appleyard, 18, Northumberland
Toilets, Tabs and Tantrums, 13-16, North Tyneside
- **Intergenerational Award**
To Be Announced

Jamie Mercer from Youth Focus: North East who led the young people's PoSBO planning group says: "The PoSBOs are always a fantastic time of the year, and certainly a highlight for Youth Focus: North East. Young people get a lot of negativity thrown their way and I don't think we take enough time to look at the positive contributions they are making to our region, to our communities, and to people's lives in the North East."

Rachel Blair, 22, from the young person steering group says: "This is our seventh PoSBOs now and every year it amazes us how much fantastic work is being done by young people. Planning the award night is still a lot of fun and we hope the nominees are as excited as we are for the night. All of the nominees this year have such inspirational stories and we wish them all the best of luck."

Established over 25 years ago, Youth Focus: North East is an award-winning charity that delivers a number of regional programmes encompassing youth employment, mental and physical health, wellbeing, politics, education and the arts, and intergenerational work.

Seven years of PoSBOs

- **HALF CENTURY:** 50 PoSBOs have been awarded since the PoSBOs 2010
- **TON UP:** Almost 900 guests have attended PoSBO awards ceremonies
- **CO-OPERATIVE:** Funded for the first five years through the Co-operative Foundation's Truth About Youth programme
- **ROOM WITH A VIEW:** The PoSBOs have taken place at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead the last three years, previously held at the Centre for Life, Newcastle

- Ends -

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Notes to editors:***About Youth Focus: North East***

Established in 1989, Youth Focus: North East (formerly Regional Youth Work Unit – North East) is a regional hub connecting young people and the organisations and professionals who support them.

Progressive and dynamic, our award-winning organisation is rooted in the values of youth work. We support a network of over 1,500 organisations and individuals concerned with improving the lives of young people. Supporting the development of quality services – we want young people to have the best from the organisations they access and the professionals who work with them.

We see the potential, not the problems, in young people. We develop responses and demonstration projects that attempt to address big issues in young people's lives. We also create space for young people to explore different issues and ideas; working alongside them to formulate responses.

Youth Focus: North East amplifies the voice of young people so they can be heard and we open up doors to new opportunities for both young people and professionals across the North East.

The Rotary Club of Newcastle upon Tyne West

The Rotary Club of Newcastle upon Tyne West works hard to create positive, lasting change in the lives of people in communities both at home and abroad. Our differing occupations, backgrounds, and cultures give us a unique perspective and our shared passion for service helps us accomplish exciting and innovative projects that benefit the lives of others.

The Key

The Key are a youth charity which helps young people to discover what they're capable of and generate the drive and determination to do something meaningful. For over 24 years they've been working with youth and community organisations from across the North East to engage young people in their Key Framework which sees young people explore their passions and build important life skills.

Northern TUC

The TUC is the voice of Britain at Work. Low pay, poor quality jobs, lack of training opportunities, precarious employment along with bullying and harassment are some of the challenges facing young workers today. Trade Unions were formed almost 150 years ago by workers with an overall aim to raise the quality of working life for people and promote equality for all. Through our trained trade union representatives in workplaces we win better pay and conditions, improve health and safety at work and create learning cultures where everyone has an opportunity to fulfil their potential helping to achieve a fairer and stronger society. There has never been a more important time for young workers to join a trade union.