

Shetland Youth Volunteer Awards



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!



2013 winners

Last year's **individual winner** was Patricia Doyle. Patricia was one of the founding members of a multi-disciplinary and inter generational group called StYPP (Shetland team of Young People and the Police) who were also the 2013 **"One Team" Group of volunteers winner**. She and her peers attended regular meetings with the Police, Community Mediation, Children's Rights and the local Drugs and Alcohol team CADSS to address issues and difficulties that exist between young people and the police. It has been a useful forum to discuss mutual concerns and took much courage to challenge the head of the local Police force about issues of concern. Although at first a shy person, Patricia was able to build her own confidence through volunteering with the group and she discovered skills and abilities she may not have otherwise found.

Following some successful initial meetings the group decided that they wanted to continue to work together and to develop a project which both the police and young people could relate to. Patricia and her peers were very concerned about one topic in particular. They wanted to warn the community, particularly young people, about the dangers of using synthetic highs. Her individual actions through the StYPP group ultimately have helped to keep the community (particularly the young community of Shetland) safer. Patricia was always the first to volunteer when the young people were asked to help out at public events and she encouraged others to come along and help her. She, the police and her peers set about developing a project to tackle the issues of synthetic highs in the community and even attended big local outdoor community show events to sensitively speak with the general public about their joint concerns regarding synthetic highs. This is potentially a really difficult subject to take to the community, running the risk of criticism, and it is credit to Patricia and her friends' understanding of this sensitivity that made this project such a success.

Last year's supporting **organisation winner** was the Shetland Befriending Scheme. They were nominated and won their award after demonstrating just how dedicated their staff are to their volunteers. The Shetland Befriending Scheme very much value the role that volunteers play in making the service possible, giving up their own free time to undertake training and support another person in need. The staff at the Befriending Scheme go that extra mile on a daily basis to ensure the service has continued to grow and develop to offer more befriending opportunities to a wider range of client groups, and to ensure that the experience for volunteers is a positive, rewarding and supportive one.

What and when is it

Nominations for the 5th annual Shetland Youth Volunteering Awards (SYVA) will open on Sunday, 1st June 2014 and will close on 1st September 2014. The launch coordinates with Volunteers' Week a national event held annually which celebrates and acknowledges the important role made by those who freely give their time to help others.

All nominees for the SYVA will be invited to attend a civic reception which will be held in Lerwick Town Hall on 10th November 2014 to receive a certificate for their outstanding achievements regardless of the overall outcome of the awards which will also be announced on the night.

Who can nominate

Anyone is free to nominate, excluding members of the judging panel. Individuals, organisations and groups of volunteers cannot self nominate. You must have obtained the consent of your proposed nominee to his/her/their nomination.

The judging panel for the SYVA is made up of young volunteers, Rotarians, representatives from BP Sullom Voe and representatives from VAS, the voluntary and youth sectors. All applications are welcome.

Who can be nominated

There will be 3 awards this year. One for an individual young volunteer from secondary 1 to aged 25, one for an organisation which has supported young volunteers of any age up to age of 25, and one for a group/team of volunteers between the ages of S1 and 25, where you have more than one volunteer in your organisation involved in the same/similar opportunity. The Rotary Club of Shetland will award prize money of £500 to the winning volunteer, £250 of this will be awarded for personal reward to the volunteer and £250 to the organisation(s) which has supported them. Voluntary Action Shetland will award £500 to the winning organisation and BP Sullom Voe will award £500 to the group/team of volunteers. Plaques will also be presented to the winner of each award. Winners will be contacted in 6 months to ask how they spent their prize money.

The awards are open to any young volunteers or groups from secondary 1 to aged 25 years who are actively volunteering in Shetland and have made an outstanding contribution to volunteering in the year of the award, and to organisations that have played a significant role in involving children and/or young people in volunteering in Shetland, also in the year of the award.

How to nominate

Rules, criteria and nomination forms for any of the three categories can be found by visiting www.va-Shetland.org.uk or by contacting the VAS volunteering team on **01595 743900** or email Neil.Pearson@shetland.org or Kathleen.Williamson@shetland.org. Alternatively visit the Rotary Club of Shetland's website at www.rotaryclubofshetland.org.uk

*If you or your business would be interested in sponsoring this year's event we would be delighted to hear from you. Call us on **01595 743910** or e-mail Neil.Pearson@Shetland.org for more information*