



In partnership with



Press release

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Dumfries & Galloway projects in final for national healthy kids award

Dumfries & Galloway have done extremely well this year securing three projects, from over 600 entries, as finalists in the national Health for Kids awards 2009, which recognises projects which seek to educate or improve the health of children and young people.

The 'Wasted' project organised by the Youth Issues Unit actively involves young people from Dumfries & Galloway in the planning, filming, editing and design of an interactive DVD, also aimed at young people, to outline the risks involved in drinking. The 'Wasted' DVD also includes information and advice about ways to drink safely and responsibly. This project has been selected as one of three finalists in the Safety and Citizenship category.

'Operation Safety', run by Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, is a unique interactive approach that has taught 23,000 children how to deal with certain dangers they may encounter during their life and how to react in a safe and responsible manner. Scenarios include road safety; safer cycling; the dangers of electricity, overhead cables and power lines; how to rescue someone in water safely; how to confidently make 999 calls in an emergency situation and many other key issues. The project has also been selected as one of three finalists in the Safety and Citizenship category.

The 'Sexperts' programme is a peer education programme delivered by 6th year pupils to 3rd year pupils at Douglas Ewart High School in Newton Stewart. The programme primarily concentrates on issues faced by teenagers such as relationships, contraception, sexually transmitted infections and anatomy and function. 'Sexperts' has been selected as one of three finalists in the Personal and Social Health category.

The Health for Kids awards programme aims to celebrate and reward individuals, teams and groups who have made a difference to child health through healthy eating and physical activity initiatives as well as tackling tough issues including obesity, emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse, safety, or helping young people get wise about sex and relationships.

Terri Woodhams from Health for Kids awards said: "We have had a record number of entries this year. The quality of the projects has also been outstanding and to make it to this stage of the competition is a great achievement."

Any initiative or long term project that has been set up to educate or improve the health of children and young people, or facilitate a change in their attitudes and behaviour to healthy living was eligible to enter this years' awards which were launched in partnership with the British Heart Foundation.

Finalists will present their initiative to an independent panel of expert judges in London on April 29th. The winner of each category will be announced in June at a special presentation in London.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

The national Health for Kids awards, this year for the first time, in partnership with the British Heart Foundation is an excellence programme that aims to celebrate and reward individuals, teams and groups who have made a real difference to child health through healthy eating and physical activity initiatives as well initiatives that tackle tough issues including obesity; emotional health; drug and alcohol misuse; safety; or helping young people get wise about sex and relationships. There are five categories in the national Health for Kids awards. Details of each category and an online entry form are available at www.hfkawards.co.uk

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is the nation's heart charity, dedicated to saving lives through pioneering research, patient care, campaigning for change and by providing vital information. The BHF relies on donations of time and money to continue its life-saving work.

Our stakeholders are the Food Standards Agency; the National Health Schools Programme (a Department of Health/Department of Children, Schools and Families joint initiative); The Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes; Health Promoting Schools, Learning and Teaching Scotland; The Royal Society for Public Health, the leading voluntary youth organisation in the UK - Clubs for Young People and Take a Break magazine.

For further information about the Health for Kids awards or the initiatives featured in this notice please contact Terri Woodhams on 0845 130 1078, terri@hfkawards.co.uk

