



Health
for Kids
awards

In partnership with



Press release

30th March 2009

Great Ormond Street project in final for national healthy kids award

The Children First for Health initiative run by Great Ormond Street Hospital has been chosen as a finalist in the Health for Kids awards 2009, which recognises projects which seek to educate or improve the health of children and young people.

The entry, entitled 'Mental Health & Wellbeing' information teenage resource, was one of over 600 entries to this year's awards. It has been selected as one of three finalists in the Emotional Health and Wellbeing category.

Children First for Health, a Great Ormond Street Hospital website for children, young people and families with health-related concerns, has launched a new interactive mental health and well-being section aimed at 12-18 year olds. www.childrenfirst.nhs.uk/teens/health/mental_health aims to demystify this complex subject area, and signpost users to further sources of specialist support and treatment. The in-depth clinically approved resource was developed following research by Great Ormond Street Hospital, which revealed that many teenagers feel there is not enough information on mental health conditions available to them. The new section has been designed specifically to appeal to 12-18 year olds, providing them with guidance and advice plus peer support, through featuring inspirational audio accounts from other young people living with mental health conditions. It also includes information explaining different mental health related conditions, various treatment and therapy options available including medication, drug information, general mental health and well-being advice and articles on life on an adolescent ward.

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 initiative featured in this notice please contact Terri Woodhams on 0845 130 1078, terri@hfkawards.co.uk

