

~ Case Study ~ Celebrating young people's achievements

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) identified funding for a number of pilot initiatives to celebrate young people's achievements across the country and Cornwall and Poole were two of the pilot areas selected in the South West.

The pilots aimed to challenge the poor public perception of young people and negative coverage in the media. The events were to be designed and lead by young people.

Here are accounts from young people in Poole and Cornwall about what they did to celebrate young people's achievements in their local area.

Poole Young Stars Award

Young people from across Poole worked in partnership with Youth Workers and Carter Community College to plan a local awards evening. One of the young planners, Vicky Olive, offers an account of her participation.



'Being involved was great fun; although it was a lot of work. We had a number of meetings to plan the event, from 2-3 months before, right up until the day before! They were quite structured meetings, but fun, and each meeting was very successful. Being such a small group, it made decision making much easier, so we managed to decide what the event should be like relatively quickly.'

Some of the awards made on the night included "Young Talent", which included artists and national standard sports people, who basically had to be dedicated to what they were doing, willing to help others and try their best. Another award was "Personal Achievement", which included people who had life-threatening illnesses but who continued with their life wishing to help others achieve and achieve greatly themselves. Some raised huge amounts of money for charity, or cared for other family members. You could receive an award for basically anything, so long as you always put in 100% effort, were kind people, and generally wished to improve yourself and the community.'

The actual event went brilliantly with just a couple of little hiccups! Presenting it ourselves was a scary task, but great fun, and definitely added to the super atmosphere. Everything went smoothly, and the room looked amazing, it was really strange seeing everything we had been talking of and imagining for the past few months in front of us.'

We were helped enormously with the delivery of the event by all the youth workers who set up the room, and allowed us to not have to worry about a thing.'

The adults involved were really good, because they knew what was liable to happen, and what wasn't, whilst at the same time, keeping our hopes alive. They had all the contacts, and organised everything for us once we had decided what we wanted, they were great!

Overall, I feel the day went amazingly, better than I ever imagined, and it was great seeing everything come to life. Presenting it has made more confident to talk in front of large numbers of people, as well as helping me to appreciate all the effort that goes in to organising an event like this.

It also was a fun, but worthwhile way to spend my evenings, and it was really good to see everyone looking so proud when they won their award.'

Vicky Olive, aged 13



This photo shows the winning and second-placed in the “Most Successful Young Team” award which were the Poole Youth Forum Conference Planning Group and Turlin Moor Youth Club Football. Vicky is also pictured seated on the far right of the picture.

Cornwall Celefest!

Celefest was a celebratory event of young people’s achievements across Cornwall. It was aimed to promote young people’s activities and the positive things they do. One of the organisers, Rowan Milligan, offers her account.

‘Celefest - A festival, a celebration of young people and everything they do! A mixture of acting, dancing, music, art, skateboarding, spray-painting and much, much more, filled the Eden project one magical evening, in mid February this year.

The Celefest event was a great success, dubbed by one young person as “the greatest event I’ve ever been to” and hailed as a fabulous display by many more. It really managed to raise the profile and awareness of the incredible things young people can do and DO do on a regular basis. Many influential people were present and it was a real eye-opener of just how independent and imaginative young people really are.

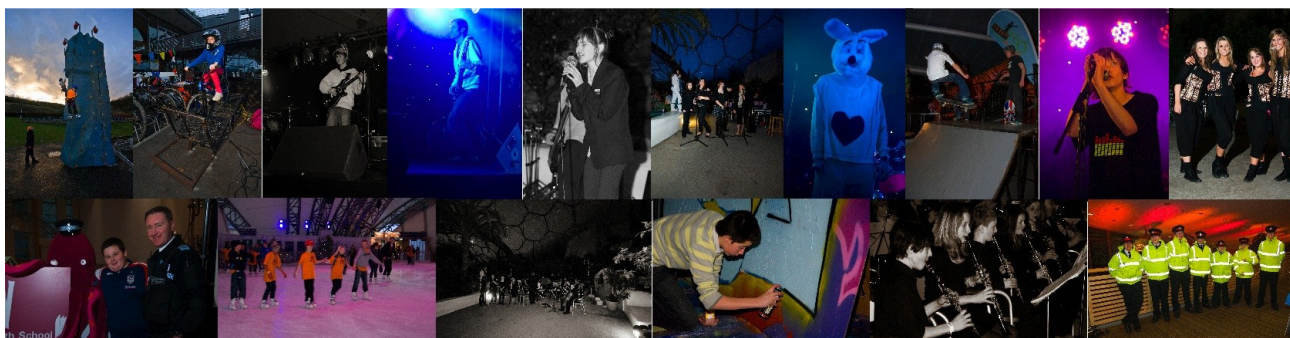
Alongside the live events there were also opportunities for any participating young people to have a try at rock climbing, ice-skating, brush-boarding and exploring the beautiful biomes- all for free! All participating young people were also given a food voucher to spend in the Eden project canteen.

What makes the project so fabulous is that it was all devised, planned and executed by a dedicated team of young people who formed the young people's steering group. These individuals met regularly to organise the event and make sure it became the success it was! On the day these young people patrolled and staffed different areas to make sure the whole event ran smoothly.

So this was not some attempt to engage young people by some men in an office- this was devised By young people, FOR young people to celebrate other young people and themselves.

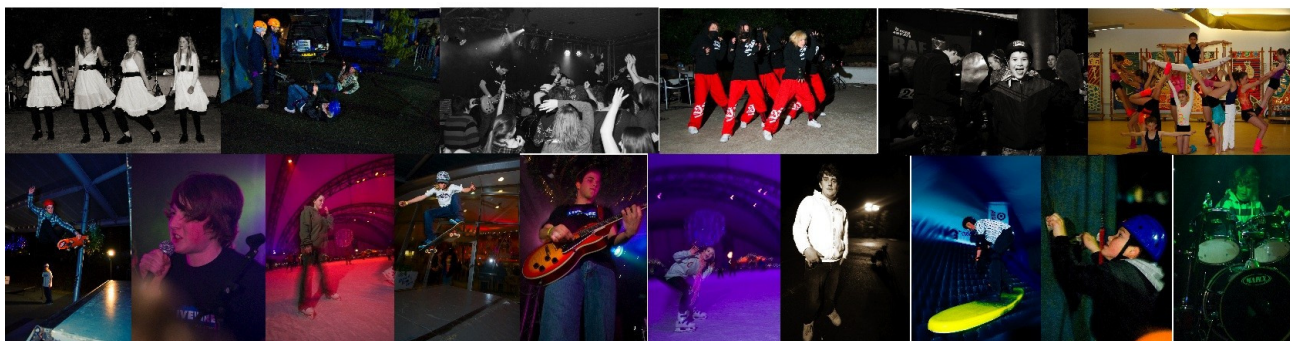
And everyone who attended and was involved in any way will agree that Celefest was a great accomplishment. We can all hope that there will be similar events (and funding) in the future, to promote the achievements of young people in generations to come.'

Rowan Milligan



On the 11th of February 2009, Cornwall invited all of it's young people to celebrate their achievements at the Eden Project by showing what they had been doing. The event was organised by young people for young people and was a huge success and we would like to thank everyone that participated and all who helped organise.

"Celebrating Young People's Achievements"



Sharon Adams
June 2009