

Press Release

Embargo Date: Tuesday, 4th July 2017- For Immediate Release

Talent Match Coventry and Warwickshire Celebrates the Achievements of Young People

- A celebration and awards ceremony took place at the Welcome Centre in Coventry on 22th June to celebrate the third year of successful delivery for the programme.
- Achievements of young people recognised after developing skills to enable them to gain employment.

Young people from Nuneaton, Bedworth, North Warwickshire and Coventry donned their glad rags to attend a prestigious Hollywood themed celebration evening at Coventry's Welcome Centre! The event was held to recognise the achievements of young people participating in the Big Lottery funded Talent Match programme as it celebrated its third full year of delivery.

Inspiring videos and presentations from young people demonstrated how the programme has helped them to develop in confidence, overcome barriers, gain skills and become better equipped to compete in the jobs market. The event was co-designed by young people and the evening was hosted by two young people who ensured the evening went smoothly and that everyone was thoroughly entertained.

Over 50 special recognition awards and certificates were presented to young people who had demonstrated their achievements in overcoming barriers to employment.

Special thanks must go to the Mayor and Mayoress of North Warwickshire for presenting the awards and supporting the event.

Over the last three years, Talent Match Coventry and Warwickshire has supported over three hundred unemployed young people aged 18-24. Of these, nearly 100 have already progressed into employment which a significant achievement is considering that the average length of unemployment when young people sign up to the project is nearly 2 years. All participants have been supported to develop skills and have been offered the opportunity to complete a range of accredited learning which has boosted their employment chances.

Paul Tolley the CEO of Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action commented:

'The evening was a fantastic opportunity to recognise the achievements of the Talent Match programme in Coventry & Warwickshire. The young people participating in the scheme told us some inspirational stories about how they have used the support of the project to overcome adversity and progress into positive destinations. It is so much more than just another employment initiative scheme; the Talent Match programme is about supporting young people to live successful and fulfilled lives. It is clear that Talent Match is making a real difference to the lives of long-term unemployed young people.'

For enquires relating to the Talent Match programme please contact Harriett Slinn, Project Mentor on 07703 715157, talentmatch@wcava.org.uk . You can also find out more about the national Talent Match initiative by visiting:

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/talentmatch>



ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

- For more information about this press release, please contact Harriett Slinn on 07703 715157. Email: harriet.slinn@wcava.org.uk
- Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action is the leading local infrastructure and support organisation for the voluntary and community sector in Warwickshire. For further information visit www.wcava.org.uk.
- Warwickshire CAVA is the lead partner in the delivery of Talent Match Coventry and Warwickshire.
- The Big Lottery Fund have invested £108million over 5 years into the Talent Match initiative and have funded 21 areas across the country.
- You can also find out more about the national Talent Match initiative by visiting: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/talentmatch>
- The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It puts people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects.
- It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Last year it awarded £583 million and supported around 12,000 projects across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 it has awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people.