



MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrating SCCYP's Children's Choice Awards 2008

The winners of this year's Children's Choice Awards will be announced at a special event in Glasgow on Thursday 13 March.

The awards, run by the office of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (SCCYP), celebrate the role many adults play in helping and supporting children and young people in Scotland.

With all nominations and the final selection of a shortlist and winner made entirely by children and young people, the Children's Choice Awards are unique.

This year, after receiving over 250 entries, 12 outstanding nominees – including teachers, youth workers and carers – have been chosen.

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Kathleen Marshall, said: "Children and young people value what adults do for them, but often it is difficult for them to express that. The Children's Choice Awards lets us celebrate wholeheartedly the great contribution that many adults make."

The winner of the Children's Choice Awards 2007 was Tracey Armstrong, director of YouthChex, a grant-giving project for young people in the Borders.

She said: "There is nothing like being given an award that young people feel you deserve. As we are providing services with them it is humbling to know young people value what we do. The fact that such an award now exists is great because it raises the profile of children and young people as decision-makers."

YouthChex Tweeddale Panel member, Sam Williams, 16, who nominated Tracey, said: "Nominating Tracey for the awards was a great way to say thanks for all her help. It's hard to thank someone at times, as it can be embarrassing. The award

meant that she knew how much we appreciated her. It was our way of saying ‘this is what you mean to us’.”

Bronwen Cohen, chief executive of Children in Scotland, said: “Following last year’s successful launch we are delighted to again be taking forward the Children’s Choice Awards with SCCYP. The awards show how much children are enriched by meaningful contact with adults – and how the shared experiences between generations can be mutually beneficial.”

“The winners of the awards are chosen by a panel made up solely of children and young people, underlining how this is an award of which children can truly have ownership.”

This year’s awards event will be held at the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA), 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, from 6-8pm on Thursday 13 March.

Winners will be announced at the event, and a press release announcing the results will be issued on the afternoon of the 13th, embargoed to 8pm. Images of winners and nominees will be available from Friday 14 March.

Due to limitations on space, journalists can attend by invitation only.

To find out more about the awards, and if you would like to attend, please contact Ezmie McCutcheon in advance as there are limited places: tel 0131 558 3733 / email Ezmie.McCutcheon@sccyp.org.uk

Notes for editors:

- SCCYP promotes and safeguards the rights of children and young people living in Scotland. Kathleen Marshall, Scotland’s first commissioner, is committed to ensuring that all children have their rights respected. SCCYP, with Children in Scotland, is the joint initiator of the Children’s Choice Awards.
- The Children’s Choice Awards has two categories, under-12s and 12 and over, so two winners will be announced on Thursday 13.
- Children in Scotland is Scotland’s national children’s agency, bringing together voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals to improve the lives of Scotland’s children and their families.