Prestigious award for DofE Director

Director of The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award London Region, Peter Fleet, was presented with the First Commonwealth Youth Worker Award 2012 in recognition of his efforts that have provided opportunities for young people across London and abroad.

Through his work with the DofE, Peter has fostered strong international partnerships with Malta, Turkey and The Gambia engaging young people in residential weeks and exchanges. These international experiences have enabled young people to explore different environments, meet new people and develop an understanding of the similarities and differences shared as part of our global community.

These opportunities are offered to young people from diverse backgrounds and are supported strongly by Peter. Through this work many young people who engage with The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in London have the opportunity to take part in international ventures, giving them new skills and qualifications for life and work. Working on multi-faith projects, youth forums and the Gold DofE Award many of these young people have gone on to become active members of their communities, with the confidence and skills to achieve.

Adedoyin Sonibare, 19, a participant from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham said: “Ever since I started my DofE programme in 2010, I have been opened up to a lot of opportunities which have enabled me to develop as an individual over the past three years. My cultural awareness has increased due to participating in an international volunteering trip in The Gambia as well as engaging participants of sister awards in Turkey and Malta. Under Peter Fleet’s leadership and with the support of DofE staff across London, thousands of young people are gaining positive experiences as a result of being involved in their programmes.”

Peter had been shortlisted along with Clare Bartlett from the Bromford Group, Kevin Mullins from Lea Manor Youth Centre and Donna Harding, an Activities Officer from Middlesbrough for their dedication to improving the lives of young people and their work to maintain quality youth services in their area.

Peter said: “I am deeply honoured to receive this award. Simply to be shortlisted was wonderful. It is fantastic to see that the work we are doing with young people is being recognised by such an important body as the National Youth Agency. In these challenging times, allowing young people access to the kind of opportunities they need to develop their understanding of the world can be difficult. With the support of my team and the organisation as a whole, we’ve been able to continue to do exactly that and make great leaps forward too. I’d like to thank the NYA and Commonwealth Secretariat for this award. The recognition will help the DofE to continue to undertake this work and make a positive difference to the lives of young Londoners in the future.”

The National Youth Agency’s Chief Executive, Fiona Blacke said: “Congratulations to Peter and all of our award winners. Great youth workers are paramount to the success of youth work, without which many young people would not be given the opportunity to grow, develop and become full members of society.”

For further information about the DofE or the Commonwealth Youth Worker Award, contact:
Notes to editors

- The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award was founded in 1956 by its Patron HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. HRH The Earl of Wessex is a Trustee.
- Over 300,000 young people were taking part in DoE programmes in the UK, supported by over 500 partner organisations and over 43,000 adult volunteers from all walks of life.
- Last year 211,900 young people started a DoE programme.
- 92,194 achieved a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, an increase of 13% from last year: Bronze: 61,139, Silver: 22,033, Gold: 9,022.
- In total, over 4.4 million people have participated in DoE programmes and achieved over 2 million Awards in the UK since 1956.
- Through the volunteering part of their programme, young people give their free time to society with a value of over £22.8 million per year and volunteers contribute over £14.7 million per year.
- A survey, commissioned by the United Learning Trust, with major employers, found that a Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is the most highly valued experience when selecting employees.
- The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is a Registered Charity No 1072490 and in Scotland No SC038254 and a Royal Charter Corporation RC000806.
- There are over 890,000 young people participating worldwide in 136 countries.
- Since 1956, over 7 million people have taken part across the world, highlighting how the DofE can truly transcend boundaries of race, language, ethnicity and culture.
- Further information can be found at www.DofE.org

Further information about the DofE

The DofE Charity
Youth charity The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award supports over 275,000 people aged 14-24 every year. Our ethos is to enable every young person of every background to take part in our programmes and succeed, regardless of any barriers. We help instil a sense of adventure and have a lasting impact on young people’s behaviour, skills and life chances.

Our mission
To inspire, guide and support young people in their self-development and recognise their achievements.

DofE programmes
Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can do a programme at one of the three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. There are four sections at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold.
- Volunteering: undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- Expedition: planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.
- At Gold level, participants must do an additional fifth Residential section, which involves staying and working away from home doing shared activity.

Achieving a Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
Young people will achieve a Duke of Edinburgh’s Award if they show persistence, commitment and personal development over a period of time. Every activity must be successfully completed and assessed. The result is the world’s leading achievement award for young people, recognised by employers and universities alike.

Where it is run
DoE programmes are delivered under licence by over 500 partners (Licensed Organisations) who offer it in 10,874 DoE groups run in centres such as youth clubs, voluntary organisations, schools, colleges, young offender institutions and businesses, which are run and supported by over 43,000 adult volunteers.