



## **Crucial work recognised as £500 LANDED for young volunteers**

LANDED, a peer education project based in Motherwell cover a wide variety of health topics in their work but tobacco is a relatively new issue for them. The volunteers who are aged between 16 and 22 decided they wanted this to be another area they raised awareness about and chose to do this through Crucial Crew.

Crucial Crew is a major awareness raising event that all primary seven pupils in South Lanarkshire are invited to attend. The event runs over five weeks, and over 4,000 children attend. It is based around the concept of 'experiential learning', providing a practical insight into a number of real-life scenarios which the children may face. Through short sessions, the pupils learn about a variety of issues such as internet safety, bullying, and the dangers of alcohol misuse. Thanks to LANDED, Crucial Crew now includes the important issue of tobacco awareness.

When LANDED were awarded the Crofton Award runner up prize of £500 at the annual REHIS awards ceremony in November, they were delighted that their efforts in tackling tobacco awareness had been recognised - especially as this was a new project for them. It was also important to the young people involved in LANDED that raising awareness and playing a role in smoking prevention had been acknowledged.

LANDED did not have the same resources when talking about tobacco that they had when covering other issues such as drugs and alcohol. With their prize money they have been able to purchase new resources and literature and use them in their tobacco awareness work, much to the volunteers' delight. Not only are these resources being used in Crucial Crew work but will also feature in a new project which will see the volunteers reach 12 to 18 year olds in community groups and other settings. Like much of their work these will also be peer led sessions looking at the issues surrounding tobacco.

The volunteers in LANDED believe there are not many channels where they can go to get recognition for the work they do, so they were delighted to be able to go for the Crofton Award. The young people believe it gave them the opportunity to focus and think about what they had achieved and what they could do in the future. They also believe focusing attention on a specific area of work such as tobacco is great to keep young people involved

LANDED found the process of applying for the Crofton Award very simple and uncomplicated and found it easy to describe what they had been working on. Their advice to any other group wanting to apply is to clearly illustrate what has been achieved and keep things straightforward and honest.