

Crofton Best Newcomer Winner 2011 Dundee Peer Education Project

The Dundee Peer Education Project provides young people with training and support that enables them to develop into Peer Educators. Peer Educators work with P7 pupils for six weekly sessions, discussing behaviour, risks and consequences, focussing in particular on tobacco, drugs and alcohol. The Peer Educators are also involved in discussing feelings about moving on to secondary school by sharing their own experience of transition.

The winning project involved trained Peer Educators planning and delivering a series of smoking and drug focused quizzes and workshops with groups of primary 7 pupils across the City of Dundee. Through the quizzes and workshops Peer Educators passed on information on the hazards associated with smoking by working on the principle that young people are influenced by and learn from their peers, both negatively and positively.

The young people who successfully complete the Peer Education process displayed an increase in confidence and self esteem and developed a broader knowledge around tobacco, drugs and alcohol. As a result they are in possession of the tools and the knowledge to share their awareness of the dangers of tobacco, drugs and alcohol with other young people.

Moving forward, the Dundee Peer Education Project plan to use their prize to help then produce an updated short educational film that will replace the outdated "Smoked" film that was produced Peer Educators several years ago.

The Crofton Award Judges comments:

The Dundee Peer Education Project application was a clear Best Newcomer winner. Issues such as image and peer influence are often recognised as negative factors that impact the decisions that are made by young people with regard to tobacco, drugs and alcohol. It is fantastic to see that the Dundee Peer Education Project have developed an innovative approach that manages to use image and peer influence in order to encourage young people to discuss tobacco issues in a positive and supportive manner.

We were also particularly interested to note that several of the young people that have been involved in the Dundee Peer Education Project now feel more comfortable with discussing and sharing information about tobacco issues at home with their parents.

The panel are looking forward to seeing how the Dundee Peer Education Project develop and enhance their work by producing a new short educational film.



Dundee Peer Education Project receiving their Crofton Best Newcomer Award at the REHIS Awards Ceremony.