



# Good for Me Good for FE Awards Celebration

House of Lords  
Friday 6 December 2024

NCFE

FEA  
FE ASSOCIATES

FEWEEK







# Overview

## The Good For Me Good For FE Campaign

Good for Me Good for FE was launched in 2021 - a pioneering social action campaign for the Further Education sector. This built on the success of London South East Colleges' FE Foodbank Friday initiative, which was developed during the pandemic to address urgent community need at that very challenging time.


Good for Me Good for FE has become a powerful force for generating millions of pounds of social value in communities across the country. Staff and students from over 150 colleges nationwide have united through fundraising and volunteering efforts - transforming and improving the lives of others.

Supported by partners, including NCFE, the AoC, and FE Week, the campaign has achieved unprecedented impact, cementing itself at the centre of the FE sector's commitment to social responsibility. Over the past three years, significant fundraising has been undertaken, hundreds of thousands of food items have been collected and countless people have been supported all over the UK.

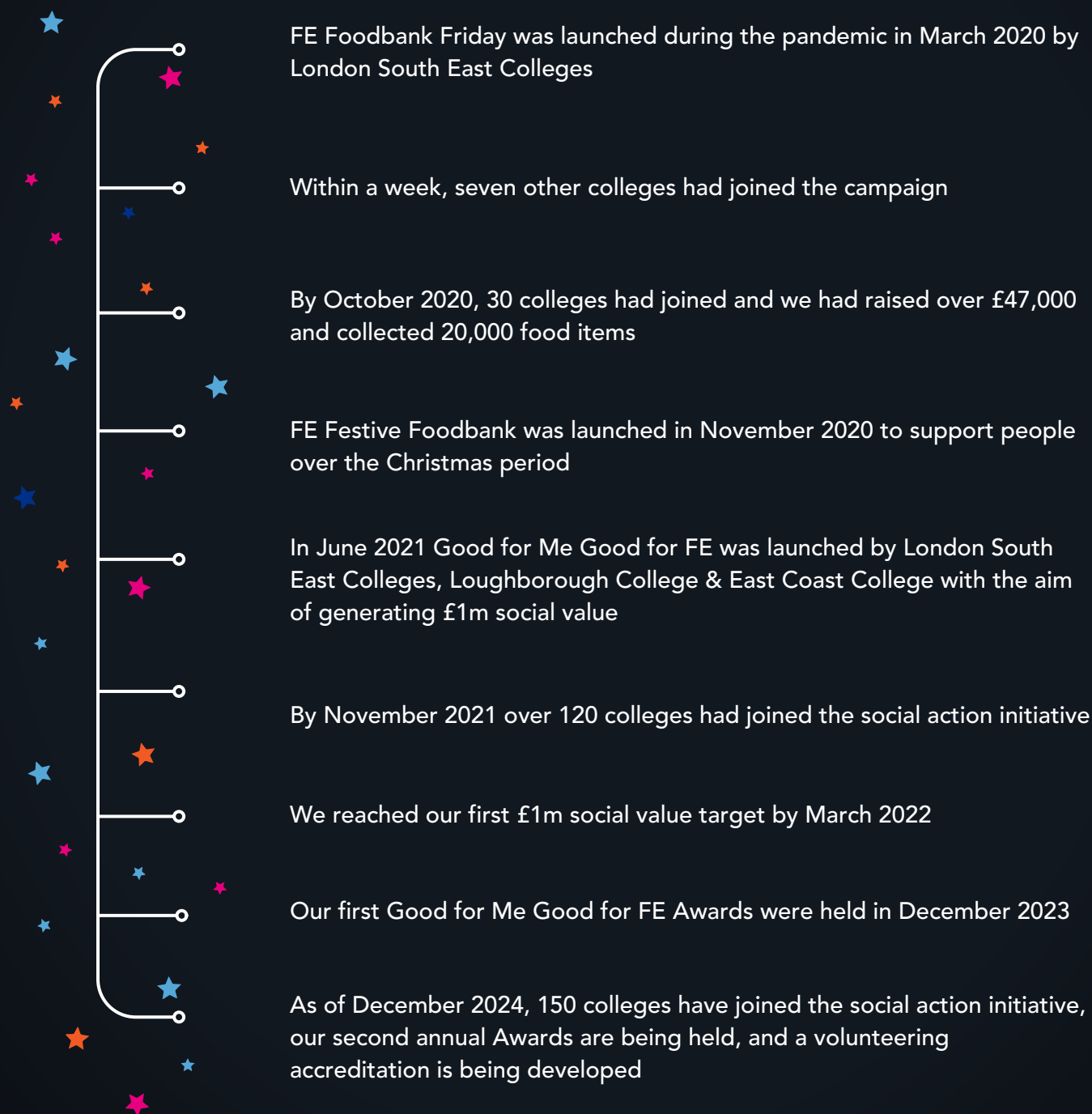
As well as continuing to encourage volunteering and fundraising activity across our network, we are now working with NCFE, Learning Vault and Navigate to develop a new volunteering accreditation. This will enable young people to gain recognition for their efforts, reflecting the employability skills that volunteering helps to develop.

This extraordinary movement continues to expand its reach. We are extremely proud of what it has achieved - and the impact it continues to have.

For more information, visit [www.goodformegoodforfe.co.uk](http://www.goodformegoodforfe.co.uk)



# Timeline









# Our Judges



## **Awards Patron - The Rt Hon Baroness Morgan of Cotes**

The Rt Hon Baroness Morgan of Cotes was Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport from 24 July 2019 to 13 February 2020. She served as Education Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities from July 2014 to July 2016. Baroness Morgan also served as an Assistant Whip in the coalition government until her appointment as Economic Secretary to the Treasury in October 2013. She was elected as MP for Loughborough from 2010-2019.

## **Shelagh Legrave CBE DL**

Shelagh Legrave was appointed FE Commissioner in 2021. Previously she was Chief Executive of Chichester College Group which served 20,000 students in West Sussex and was judged as outstanding by Ofsted in 2020. She has been a trustee of Stonepillow, a homeless charity, since 2008 and is committed to helping people in need of support and encouragement.

## **David Hughes CBE**

David Hughes is Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges, representing and supporting further education colleges to fulfil their role as anchor institutions. He was awarded a CBE for services to further education, particularly during the Covid-19 response. David has worked in post-16 education for over 25 years, including a decade as a senior civil servant. Before that he worked in Australia and the UK in community development, regeneration, welfare, employment and social housing.

## **Dr Katerina Kolyva**

Katerina is the Chief Executive Officer of the Education and Training Foundation, the expert body for professional development and standards in Further Education and Training in England. Katerina brings a wealth of experience from a career spanning education, health and membership sectors.

## **Professor Jo Maher**

Professor Jo Maher, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Sport at Loughborough University, is a member of the FA Council and National Game Board, Chair of the FA Development Committee, and a Director of AoC Sport. With 17 years in Further Education, including seven as Principal and CEO at Boston and Loughborough Colleges, she secured a £12.5m sports hall, supported partnerships with 15 national sports bodies for over 2,000 elite athletes annually, and helped establish the East Midlands Institute of Technology. A qualified teacher and former Chartered Scientist, Jo is also an internationally published academic and co-initiator of Good for Me Good for FE.





## **Phil Packer MBE**

Having sustained catastrophic spinal injuries while on operational duty with Her Majesty's Armed Forces in 2008, Phil founded the British Inspiration Trust (BRIT) in 2011. This organisation encourages people to volunteer support, or provide professional services to the charity. In addition, Phil has embarked on many arduous, physical challenges, fundraising over £1.3m and receiving an MBE.

## **Lesley Davies CBE FCFE**

Lesley is the Executive Director for the Chartered Institution for Further Education (CIFE) and Honorary Vice President of the Council of British International Schools. She is also Chair of the British Council's Education Advisory Board, Non-Executive Director for Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust and Chair of Cheshire College South & West. Prior to her non-executive positions, Lesley was CEO and Principal of the Trafford College Group. In 2015 she was presented with an OBE for services to education and then a CBE in 2022.

## **David Gallagher**

David Gallagher is Chief Executive Officer at NCFE, an educational charity and leader in vocational and technical learning. He is a Non-Executive Director of the Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB), as well as Chair of the FAB Policy Board. David has enjoyed a successful career in employment, education and skills for over 20 years. His diverse leadership experience spans public, private and charitable organisations within the sector and throughout his career he has been focused on delivering social impact.

## **Dame Sally Dicketts**

Dame Sally has held senior posts in both secondary schools and further education. She became Principal at Milton Keynes College in 1996, and in 2003 became the first Principal of Oxford & Cherwell Valley College. In 2013 she became the first Chief Executive of Activate Learning. A tireless campaigner and advocate for the learning and skills sector, Dame Sally was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Honours list in July 2013 and in 2023 was awarded the honour of DBE for services to education.

# Our Sponsors



NCFE is an educational charity and a leader in vocational and technical learning dedicated to powering a smarter education eco-system. Bringing together over 175 years of education experience and real insight into how people learn, they understand society's most pressing learning needs and galvanise the education sector around the opportunities. From world-class qualifications and content to new assessment methodologies, from innovative technology platforms to truly strategic partnerships – or a unique combination – NCFE shapes the smartest solution for individual learning needs.

In doing this, they equip learners to live meaningful and fulfilling lives whatever the start-point, whatever the destination, striving for greater reach and impact. NCFE is shaping smarter learning.

[www.ncfe.org.uk](http://www.ncfe.org.uk)

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Since its launch in September 2011, FE Week has become the trusted go-to source for breaking news, in-depth investigations, and expert analysis covering 16-19 education, apprenticeships, lifelong learning, prison education, colleges, training companies, and lots more.

Published weekly during term time, FE Week is tailor-made for middle and senior managers in colleges and private training providers, as well as anyone passionate about this vital sector—from policymakers and government officials to service providers and influencers. We're proud to inform, inspire, and drive the conversations that shape the future of further education and skills.

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# Our Finalists

## Individual Fundraiser of the Year

*Judged by Phil Packer*

### Emma Shipstone (Nottingham College)

Emma Shipstone, Senior Programme Manager at Nottingham College, founded Gifts from Fairies to help combat child poverty in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Transforming donations into over 3000 individual gifts, she positively impacted over 260 children, raising almost £14,000. Emma's charity achieved official status in 2024, earning her accolades such as Runner-Up at the Newark Business Awards. Her innovative work and extraordinary dedication highlights Nottingham's child poverty crisis, rallying community support to create hope and joy for disadvantaged families.

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### Suzanne Richards (Walsall College)

Suzanne Richards, a travel and tourism lecturer at Walsall College, established Smile for Joel after tragically losing her son Joel, father Pat and brother Adrian in the 2015 Tunisian terrorist attack. This year, Suzanne raised £35,000 through events such as the Row for Joel and Run for Joel, supporting bereaved families and promoting safe travel awareness. Her charity offers financial assistance, respite and resilience-building opportunities through sports and education. Awarded an MBE for services to charity and a Midlands Enterprise Award, Suzanne continues to inspire her community with her dedication to preventing terrorism and supporting affected families.

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### Aimee Garratt (Dudley College)

In memory of her son, Ronnie, Aimee Garratt founded Ronnie and Friends to raise over £24,000 for a second bereavement suite at Russell's Hall Hospital. A role model at Dudley College, Aimee tirelessly educates and fundraises, building awareness around baby loss and providing essential support to grieving families. Her advocacy extends to the local community, earning her the Mayor's Award. Aimee's resilience and compassion exemplify her commitment to honouring Ronnie's memory and creating a lasting impact.





## Team/College Fundraiser of the Year

*Judged by Dame Sally Dicketts*

### **Personal Social Development Team (Nottingham College)**

The Personal Social Development Team at Nottingham College raised over £8000 exceeding their £5000 goal by 62%. Initiatives like the 'Positivi-Tree' distributed over 2,000 gifts to disadvantaged families, and a sponsored litter pick for Rainbow Hospice raised over £800. Collaborations with community groups such as Stonebridge City Farm and local schools significantly increased student social action participation. The team's remarkable efforts encouraged a culture of social responsibility, supporting Nottingham College's mission to make students 'Future Ready', while addressing immediate community needs with sustainable solutions.

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### **Student Engagement and Organisational Development Teams (Southern Regional College)**

Southern Regional College's Student Engagement and Organisational Development Teams surpassed their £10,000 target, raising £13,500 for the NI Children's Hospice. Their initiatives included 37 charity events, a toy appeal delivering 126 toys to students in need, and 500 donations to local foodbanks. Additionally, 495 Winter Wellness Packs were distributed, helping to alleviate student poverty. Embedded into the curriculum, these activities fostered empathy and life skills among participants. Staff and students collaborated across campuses, creating a culture of compassion and leaving a lasting impact on both the college and local community.

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### **Students' Union (Barnsley College)**

Barnsley College's Students' Union have this year raised £8,500 for Barnsley Hospice, through a series of vintage clothing pop-up shops. These monthly and week-long events, aligned with the College's Sustainability Strategy, educated over 5,000 students about recycling and the environmental impact of fast fashion. The initiative addressed the community's cost-of-living crisis by providing affordable clothing, such as winter fleeces. Beyond fundraising, the project raised awareness of the Hospice's critical work. Plans to expand the initiative into a town-centre retail hub will further embed sustainability and community engagement among students.



# Student Volunteer of the Year

*Judged by David Gallagher*

## **Norman Smith (Dudley College)**

Norman Smith has volunteered over 200 hours at Dudley College, offering invaluable support in the photography department. He creates resources, mentors disadvantaged students and supports their mental health through one-on-one assistance. Norman's contributions include managing the Refugee Project, which celebrates resilience through exhibitions and running the Dudley Camera Club. He even saved a life using his medical background. As an official college volunteer, Norman inspires students to express their individuality, having a positive impact on the college and community.

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## **Jack Stone (London South East Colleges)**

Jack Stone has contributed over 200 hours across diverse volunteering roles, including as a Fire Cadet, Bluebell Railway platform staff, and Vice President of his college's Student Union. Jack's leadership has inspired his peers through fire safety training and accessible travel experiences, as well as being a great advocate for student welfare. A passionate volunteer, Jack demonstrates exceptional community engagement and resilience - and continues to have an incredibly positive impact on both his college and the wider community.

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## **Beth Williams (Nottingham College)**

Beth Williams, a Nottingham College student, has dedicated over 900 hours to volunteering, with a focus on youth development and social justice. As a Youth Voice Ambassador, she supports young offenders through the Derbyshire Justice System, tailoring rehabilitation programs to break cycles of reoffending. Her contributions include mentoring vulnerable youth, promoting life skills with St John Ambulance, and leading National Citizen Service initiatives. Recognised as District Cadet of the Year, Beth's work demonstrates resilience and leadership, while inspiring her peers to get involved with transformative social action.





# Staff Volunteer of the Year

*Judged by Jo Maher*

## **Nicola Thomson-Dewey (Barnsley College)**

Nicola Thomson-Dewey has dedicated hundreds of hours to community-focused initiatives, including leading the 'Love Grace' handbag appeal, which collected over 500 handbags for women in refuges and has raised awareness of the issue of violence against women. She plays a vital role in the Barnsley Care Leavers Christmas Dinner Project and partners with Age UK to bring intergenerational opportunities to the college, such as a Virtual Reality Remembrance Day event which saw 102-year-old Edie Greaves try out VR for the first time. Nicola's 17 years of service at Barnsley College have supported inclusivity and generated social value. This reflects her commitment to students and the local community through impactful projects that support vulnerable groups and inspire people to work together.

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## **Rich Williams (Nottingham College)**

Rich Williams, Nottingham College's Vice Principal, has devoted over 1000 hours to Staffordshire Scouting as the County Lead Volunteer. Under his leadership, over 1000 young people achieved prestigious awards, including Chief Scout and Duke of Edinburgh recognitions, with the organisation growing to over 10,000 members. Rich's transformative efforts include expanding programs for younger children and encouraging leadership among volunteers. His legacy is marked by initiatives enhancing youth development and teamwork. Rich's lifelong commitment to Scouting is inspiring future generations of leaders, reflecting the power of volunteering in shaping lives.

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## **Rob Stevenson (Burton and South Derbyshire College)**

Rob Stevenson, a Public Services lecturer, has volunteered as a Community First Responder for the last 14 years. He devotes over 100 hours a month, responding to emergencies and teaching lifesaving skills. He has advocated for AED installations at the college and educates the public through the British Heart Foundation's Heart Start program. A Royal British Legion member, Rob also oversees poppy sales, raising essential funds for veterans and inspiring students through fundraising challenges. Rob's exceptional dedication to emergency care and education is helping to save and transform lives.



## Project of the Year

*Judged by Dr Katerina Kolyva*

### **Coast-to-Coast Challenge (Burton and South Derbyshire College)**

Protective Services students at Burton and South Derbyshire College completed a 204km Coast-to-Coast cycling challenge in memory of a fellow student who tragically lost his life in a road accident in 2023. The team raised over £3000 for a bereavement support hub via Burton Albion Community Trust. Students planned the expedition, camped en route and united the community. This project not only honoured their friend's memory but created a legacy for mental health support. It demonstrated the students' resilience and community spirit, reinforcing the college's role in generating social change through collective action.

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### **PEAR Project (South Eastern Regional College)**

The PEAR Project at South Eastern Regional College provides tailored support for student carers, including a 24-hour app, flexible arrangements, and recharge rooms. Collaborations with the NHS and Action for Children have increased both student carer registrations and retention. The initiative's holistic approach has led to a 98% course completion among carers, empowering them to balance education and caregiving. Partnerships with health trusts and Inspire Counselling Services have enhanced the project's reach - creating a supportive environment that addresses carers' needs comprehensively, enabling academic success and personal wellbeing.

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### **Wellbeing Wednesday Lunches (London South East Colleges)**

London South East Colleges' Wellbeing Wednesday Lunches, in partnership with Bromley Council's Tackling Loneliness Initiative, offer free meals and social opportunities to local residents. Held at its BR6 Restaurant, students prepare and serve meals, engaging guests in conversation. This initiative combats isolation, helping over 60 attendees per event build connections and access essential services. Simultaneously, nearly 100 students gain valuable skills in teamwork and community service. Praised and supported by Bromley Council's Loneliness Champion, the project exemplifies the role of colleges as community anchors, addressing social challenges while enhancing student employability.



# Volunteering College Coordinator of the Year

*Judged by Lesley Davies*

## Nottingham College Team

The Nottingham College Team exemplifies dedication to the Good for Me Good for FE campaign. Its participation in activities, regular submission of social action data, and development of impactful case studies highlights exceptional commitment. The team integrates social value principles across the college, showcasing community impact and enhancing the campaign's visibility through media coverage. The team's contributions to the accreditation focus group have also demonstrated a forward-thinking approach. With exceptional coordination, Nottingham College has embedded social responsibility into its culture, creating a successful model for student development and engagement.

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## Penny Taylor and the Newark College Team (Lincoln College Group)

Penny Taylor's exceptional leadership and her team at Newark College are contributing to the success of Good for Me Good for FE at Lincoln College Group. She pioneered non-means-tested food banks, addressing food insecurity and its impact on learning, while forging partnerships to connect students with residents facing mental health challenges. Penny and her team's efforts extend to engaging staff in volunteering and social action projects. Her innovative, compassionate approach demonstrates the campaign's spirit, making her a driving force for social impact and a standout advocate for community wellbeing.

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## Good for Me Good for FE Accreditation Focus Group

The GfMGfFE Accreditation Focus Group is playing a pivotal role in developing an innovative program to recognise skills gained through volunteering, comprising of four of our most engaged partner colleges – Nottingham College, Loughborough College, East Coast College and South Eastern Regional College. This initiative challenges traditional educational models by valuing experiences outside the classroom. The Group's collaborative efforts are shaping a framework emphasising personal growth, transferrable skills and community impact. By giving their time and expertise to advocate for such accreditation, members of this group are inspiring more people to volunteer and participate in social action activities through genuine innovation.





# Inspirational Role Model of the Year

*Judged by David Hughes*

## **Rosie Rawlins-Waumsley (Suffolk New College)**

Rosie Rawlins-Waumsley has made social action a cornerstone of the student experience at Suffolk New College. By leading initiatives such as thrift stores, charity performances and bake sales, she has raised almost £500 for causes like the Batten Disease Association and sustainable fashion charities. Her activities not only support community connections but also raise awareness of critical issues like fast fashion and sustainability. Rosie's leadership inspires responsibility among her students and embeds social action into the college culture. Her dedication to both student growth and community impact makes her an exceptional role model.

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## **Tom Griffiths (Leeds City College)**

Tom Griffiths, Head of Public Services at Leeds City College, has demonstrated exceptional leadership. Through initiatives like the Emergency Food Support Programme and the L.O.C.C (Looking After Our Own Care and Culture) Project, he helps address critical challenges such as food insecurity and cultural inclusivity. These projects have directly benefited over 100 students, providing them with a sense of belonging. Tom's support for staff-led initiatives and his dedication to empowering students to create social change, demonstrates what an inspirational role model he is, both within the college and beyond.

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## **Abigail Daly (City College Plymouth)**

Abi Daly's journey from overcoming personal challenges as an autistic student to becoming a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award recipient reflects her resilience and leadership. Her advocacy for students with SEND has transformed attitudes within City College Plymouth, supporting inclusivity through awareness sessions and council representation. As a UK Youth Ambassador for the DofE, Abi inspires others by sharing her experiences and championing social causes. Her impactful contributions to creating a supportive environment for neurodiverse students, coupled with her advocacy, reflects her role as a compassionate and inspiring leader.



# Outstanding Long-Service Award for Volunteering

*Judged by Shelagh Legrave*

## **Rob Stevenson (Burton and South Derbyshire College)**

Rob Stevenson, a Community First Responder for 14 years, has saved countless lives by responding to emergencies and educating others on AED use through British Heart Foundation courses. He supports veterans as a Royal British Legion volunteer and inspires students through initiatives like the Coast-to-Coast Challenge, which combines fundraising and personal growth. Rob's commitment to community safety, education and resilience has left an enduring impact on his college and local area, showcasing the transformative power of sustained volunteering.

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## **Liam Cannon (Suffolk New College)**

Liam Cannon has dedicated four years to volunteering at Suffolk New College, leaving a lasting impact on students' personal growth and career readiness. From organising annual music festivals to leading social action projects, Liam has created opportunities that inspire and support learners. In addition, his safeguarding initiatives in relation to PREVENT and sexual harassment, have been commended by OFSTED for their positive effect on the college community. Liam's efforts resonate far beyond the college, highlighting his exceptional dedication to the wellbeing and success of others.

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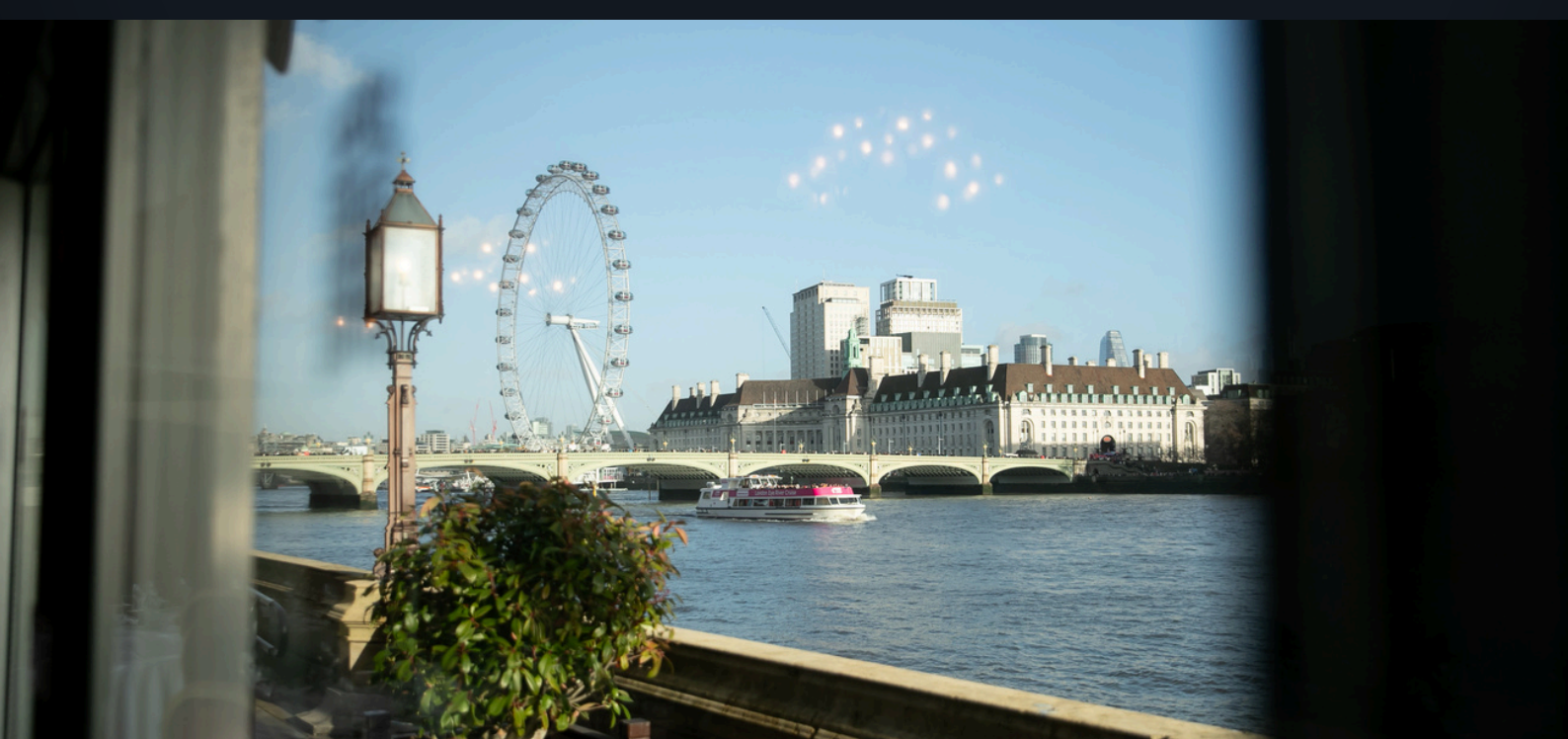
## **Rich Williams (Nottingham College)**

Rich Williams has devoted over 20 years to volunteering with the Scouts, currently serving as County Lead Volunteer for Staffordshire. Committing over 1000 hours annually, he oversees 12 districts, 119 groups, and 2657 volunteers - supporting nearly 8,000 young people. His leadership has doubled Duke of Edinburgh completions and expanded youth programs, including the Squirrels section for 4–6-year-olds. Under his guidance, Scouts in Staffordshire have flourished, encouraging resilience and leadership among children and young people. Rich's work and commitment reflects the true value of social action and the impact this has on people's lives.











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