

Impact Initiatives Young People's Centre receives national award

Impact Initiatives Young People's Centre (YPC) has been chosen to receive a Microsoft Community Learning Award to help disadvantaged young people aged 13 –25 in Brighton and Hove gain access to IT training and skills. The award was presented by Alistair Baker, Managing Director of Microsoft UK and John Fisher, CEO of Citizens Online, at a ceremony in London recently.

The YPC was one of only 25 winners from over 450 applicants to the new awards scheme run by Microsoft Ltd and national charity Citizens Online. The YPC has received £2000 along with Microsoft donated software.

The Microsoft Community Learning Award will help the YPC to reach more young people currently excluded from existing IT training and support schemes in the local area.

Bill Young, Team Leader at the YPC said; "Helping young people to access IT is very important as it builds confidence and skills for employability and further training. Young people also find using the IT suite a good way to access the other facilities on offer and to find help with troubling issues. This funding will allow us to train volunteers who will support young people in the IT suite and help them access other support if necessary."

The Awards Scheme is part of Microsoft's' global giving initiative, Unlimited Potential, a programme aimed at tackling technology illiteracy supported by a long term investment of cash and software over the next five years. The Community Learning Awards will further the goals of Unlimited Potential which seeks to target support towards IT skills training for disadvantaged youth and adults through community-based technology and learning centres (CTLC's).

Nick Barley, Microsoft's Marketing Manger, commented "The Microsoft Community Learning Awards aim to help community groups tackle the issue of digital inclusion by improving access to IT skills and training. Community centres are an effective way of reaching individuals and groups who are most in need. We're impressed to see the high standard of entries and the commitment of winning organisations in helping to create opportunities through technology for disadvantaged individuals in their community."

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About Impact Initiatives:

Founded in 1978, Impact Initiatives (Impact) is a local charity that supports 20 different projects across Sussex, all with different approaches to helping disadvantaged people and communities lead healthy lives, maintain their independence and take advantage of learning opportunities.

The YPC is an Impact project that is currently the only multi-agency open access point targeting marginalized and hard to reach young people in central Brighton. The centre offers 6 drop-in sessions a week where young people can access learning opportunities, activities, information and support on a wide range of issues. There is a free counselling service, access to a Connexions Personal Adviser; sexual health advice; free condoms, emergency contraception and a sexual health clinic; education, training, employment and housing information; a supported ICT suite with full Internet access; and a Youth Council.

To find out more about Impact, please visit www.impact-initiatives.org.uk

To donate to Impact online using a credit or debit card, please visit

www.givenow.org , search for "Impact Initiatives" and click on our link.

Impact Initiatives is a registered charity (Charity Commission No. 276669) and a company limited by guarantee (Company registered in England No. 1402692).

About Microsoft

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About Citizens Online

Citizens online is a national charity committed to closing the digital divide. We believe that members of the community should have access to ICT and the Internet to ensure they are socially included in all areas of today's society.

Our work includes research projects analysing the ever increasing digital environment and its impact on society as a whole. As part of our ongoing involvement we work closely with the IT and Telecoms Industry and local and central government in both an advisory capacity and the development of ongoing projects across the UK.
