



20 February 2018

Anne Frank Trust UK wins Community Cohesion award in Bedfordshire

The Anne Frank Trust UK has been recognised for its education work in the Bedfordshire Police's Community Cohesion Thank You Awards 2018.

Val Ross, who delivers the charity's education programmes in Luton, Bedford and Central Bedfordshire, received the Hate Crime Champion Award at Friday's (16 February) ceremony, held at the Auction House in Luton.

Around 400 people attended the gala event with 15 different categories of award being handed out on the night.

The Anne Frank Trust's Anti-Hate Crime Schools project has reached over 5,000 young people in schools and other settings across Bedfordshire since it began in 2016. Launched in partnership with Bedfordshire Police and Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the project educates young people about the dangers and impact of prejudice and fosters in them positive attitudes and behaviour towards others.

Speaking of her award Val Ross said: "I am thrilled to have received this award: it is a great endorsement of our work and testimony to the commitment of the schools and organisations which have partnered with us and the trust placed in us. I am passionate about the contribution which young people can make towards shaping a better, happier and safer future for themselves and others in their communities. In the work which we undertake in Anne's name we are mindful of her Father Otto's words: 'In order to know the future we must understand the past'. All of those who were recognised for their service and contribution to Community Cohesion on Friday have a common vision to create a more cohesive, supportive, accepting and positive environment for us all to thrive in. To be part of this vision and to be recognised for it is a huge honour, and the pinnacle of my professional career'

Former Hate Crime Tactical Lead Sgt James Hart said the Hate Crime Champion Award had been for "Val's amazing work in tackling hate crime and prejudicial bullying."

The Anti-Hate Crime Schools project is ongoing across Bedfordshire and is to be supplemented this year by the Trust's digital resilience programme Switch Off Prejudice.

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Notes to Editors

About The Anne Frank Trust UK

Prejudice and discrimination harms individuals, communities and society. The Anne Frank Trust UK is an education charity. We use Anne Frank's life and diary to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

We partner with schools, local authorities, criminal justice education services and others, to deliver education to young people in a variety of settings, predominantly in schools.

Our interactive and impactful programme includes an exhibition of Anne Frank's life and diary combined with workshops, peer education and an ambassador programme. The Anne Frank Trust UK was established in 1991 by family and friends of Otto Frank, following his wish for an educational organisation to be set up in memory of his daughter Anne. www.annefrank.org.uk