Young people in south Wales invited to join the Fixers movement!

Thursday 16 May, 2013

Fired up by issues like cyber bullying, unemployment or homelessness? Or is it eating disorders or legal highs that you really want to shout about?

Whatever the subject, if you're aged 16 to 25, Fixers can help you make your voice heard.

Young people across South Wales, are being invited to join the movement of young people 'fixing' the future.

Fixers is recruiting 20,000 young people over the next three years to tackle the issues they feel strongly about.

The award-winning project – backed the Big Lottery Fund - has already supported over 7,400 young people to make a difference.

Fixers is represented in Wales by a team of young people's coordinators, creative producers and broadcasters, unearthing projects led by young people on issues they care about.

Leading the call to action is South Wales Young Person's Co-ordinator Jenny Roach.

Jenny helps each Fixer to identify the best way to fix their issue, and shape their project to a successful outcome.

"I love working with Fixers because it helps young people get their voices heard on any issue that affects them or that they feel is important to them and the communities they live in," says Jenny.

"I believe that every person, young or old, has equal amounts of power to effect change and that they deserve to be listened to and respected. They have the ability to influence change, no matter how big or small, on a daily basis!

"Fixers are truly inspiring; young people really are making a difference. They are drawing attention to a vast range of issues, and challenging the opinions of many.

"Throughout the projects, Fixers grow in confidence and develop the necessary skills, knowledge and network of contacts so they can continue their work into the future."

Jenny has already worked with Fixers on issues as diverse as overcoming depression, battling the growing problem of drugs in the valleys and encouraging more people back into sport. You can see some of the projects that have already taken place on the Fixers website www.fixers.org.uk

How each Fixer tackles their chosen issue is up to them – as long as they benefit someone else.

Each Fixer is supported to create the high-quality resources they need to make their chosen project a success, with creative help from media professionals.

Many Fixers chose to make a film or music video, some run workshops or hold an event to encourage change in their communities.

The new skills and confidence they acquire have often seen them go on to achieve far greater things.

So far Fixers have set up their own charities, become spokespeople on their specialist subjects and won national awards.

They appear on ITV regional news programmes every month in peak time slots, and the Daily Mail and Cosmopolitan are among the national publications which have recently included special features on Fixers' stories.

Fixers was established as a project of the Public Service Broadcasting Trust in 2008.

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“Fixers started in 2008 as just an idea… an idea given a voice by over 7,400 young people over the past five years,” says Margo Horsley, Chief Executive of PSBT.

“They have reached thousands of people with their work, on a national stage as well as in and around where they live. They choose the full array of social and health issues facing society today and set about making their mark. Fixers are always courageous and their ideas can be challenging and life-changing, not just for themselves.”

Peter Ainsworth, Big Lottery Fund UK Chair, says: “The Big Lottery Fund is extremely proud to be supporting Fixers to engage with more young people to change things for the better. Fixers has a tremendous potential – one young person’s initial idea can be transformed into reality, spread across a community and make a positive influence on a wide range of people. There are thousands of young people campaigning to make improvements in their neighbourhoods and Fixers provides a platform to highlight their voluntary work and many achievements.”

For more information on Fixers, please contact Jenny by email jenny@fixers.org.uk, Facebook jenny.fixers or phone 07436 265928.

Or you can contact Sue Meaden in the Communications Team by email sue@fixers.org.uk or phone 01962 810970.

Anyone interested in supporting Fixers, can get involved through our website, Twitter and Facebook pages:
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Or sign up to receive the Fixers e-bulletin by emailing talk2me@fixers.org.uk

Notes to editors:
• Fixers is a project of the Public Service Broadcasting Trust, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, and featured on ITV regional news programmes. Since 2008 almost 7,000 young people in England have become Fixers and created some 800 projects. Their achievements have been highlighted in over 300 ITV features. Now with a £7.2 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund, Fixers is extending into Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, and aims to work with 20,000 young people over the next three years.
• The Public Service Broadcasting Trust is a charity that brings together mainstream broadcasters, public and voluntary sector services, and viewers.
• The Big Lottery Fund (BIG), the largest distributor of National Lottery good cause funding, is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery.
• BIG is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since June 2004. The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.
• Since the National Lottery began in 1994, 28p from every pound spent by the public has gone to good causes. As a result, over £29 billion has now been raised and more than 383,000 grants awarded across arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment.

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