

**PR 3735**

**02 April 2015**

**For Immediate Release**

## **DO YOU KNOW A YOUNG PERSON WHO DESERVES RECOGNITION?**

Northamptonshire County Council is inviting people to nominate a young unsung hero for a special award to recognise their achievements.

Back for the third year, the Youth Ambition Awards are an annual celebration of children and young people across Northamptonshire. They aim to reward the achievements of special young people and showcase the great things they do in their local community.

The Youth Ambition Awards are held jointly with Northamptonshire Newspapers' education awards and the winners will be announced at a special ceremony taking place at Wicksteed Park pavilion on Wednesday 8th July.

The five Youth Ambition Award categories are:

- Young Apprentice of the Year
- The Arts Award
- Young Role Model of the Year
- Project or Campaign of the Year
- The Taking Charge of Your Life Award

Last year's Young Apprentice of the Year was Katherine Vass, who was nominated for the award by Sally Bristow, her manager at Diamond Hard Surfaces Ltd in Towcester.

Katherine said: "I was amazed when they called my name to say that I had won the Young Apprentice of the Year and was honoured that they chose me out of all the applicants for the award.

"I'm still working at Diamond Hard Surfaces but now have a more permanent position and I'm hopefully going to upgrade my NVQ Level 2 into a Level 3 starting in September so long as I pass my exams this year."

Alex Hopkins, county council director of children, families and education, said: "The

Youth Ambition Awards are a wonderful opportunity for us to recognise some of the fantastic things young people across Northamptonshire do, whether it's setting an excellent example for their peers, leading a community campaign or overcoming adversity to achieve academic success.

“With the Youth Ambition Awards, Northamptonshire County Council in partnership with Connexions aims to raise the aspirations of young people across the county and encourage them to succeed. Young people can often get a bad press, but it's incredibly heart-warming to read the many nominations we receive each year.

“I would encourage anyone who knows a child or teenager who they think deserves recognition for something they are doing in their school, community, home or working life to get in touch and nominate them for an award.”

More information about the awards and how to nominate can be found at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/youthambition](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/youthambition).

The deadline for nominations is Friday 5th June.

ENDS

**For further information please contact: Joni Ager on 01604 361271;**

