

## Fostering's Got Talent 2018

The fostering service hosted a fabulous evening showcasing some incredible talent from our fostering community on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May at West Notts College's Create Theatre in Mansfield. This is the third year that this event has been held and has become a firm fixture on the services calendar! Thirteen young people came together to become eleven acts taking to the stage. We had musicians, singers, dancers, a poet and gymnasts who entertained the audience for nearly two hours. It was an incredibly emotional, uplifting and fun evening, enjoyed by everyone who took part or came to watch and support.

The acts arrived at 5.30pm for what was their first and only rehearsal! There were a few nerves, but the young people encouraged each other and they soon relaxed and began to enjoy the experience. The show opened at 6.30pm and everyone was given a warm welcome by our Service manager, Dawn Clark Cain accompanied by Phoebe who grew up in a family who fostered and together they introduced the acts. The first five acts set the bar high. Popcorn and refreshments were served during the short intermission. We resumed for the second half of the show and were once again thoroughly entertained.





The audience voted for their favourite act and whilst the votes were counted, two young performing arts students from the college performed a song each beautifully.

Every act received a 'Certificate of Achievement' presented by Steve Edwards, Service Director and Clare Macdonald, Chair of FLAG (Fostering Liaison and Advisory Group) and were as follows:

*ACT 1 - Amellia - singing Friends by Marshmello & Anne-Marie*

*ACT 2 - Gracie W - Poem*

*ACT 3 - Maisy - Drum solo*

*ACT 4 - Esther - Own song & keyboards*

*ACT 5 - Noralisa and Lena - singing and dancing to Girl on Fire by Alice Keys*

*ACT 6 -Chelsea - gymnastics performed to 'When I'm gone' by Anna Kendrick*

*ACT 7 - Gracie M – singing and dancing to 'Sit Still, Look Pretty 'by Daya*

*ACT 8 - Shannon - Poem*

*ACT 9 - Elizabeth – dancing to 'Shake it Off' ' by Taylor Swift*

*ACT 10 - 'Trouble Twinzz' Jess and Beth - Singing Camila Cabello- Havana (sing off) Conor Maynard and Anna Maynard lyrics*

*ACT 11 - Sarah – dancing to 'Life is worth living' by Justin Beiber*

The show closed with the presenting of prizes.

**First Prize** – Pair of tickets for the Semi- final of Britain's Got Talent kindly donate by Fremantle Media Ltd PLUS £100 towards travel/accommodation donated by FLAG, **Second Prize and Third Prize** - £50 High Street Vouchers and £25 High Street Vouchers respectively, donated by FLAG Steve and Clare presented the prizes.

Gracie, who did her own dance interpretation to 'Sit Still, Look Pretty 'by Daya, won and was over the moon to be given tickets to the semi-final of BGT particularly as her older sister had won the same prize last year! Gracie's had the best time ever! She sat near the judges and sat at the back of Louis Walsh wow then Dec walked by her and high fived the girl sat at the side of her, Sally told me she was hysterical with excitement. They also stayed at the same hotel as Diversity as they performed on the same night and many of the contestants were also there and Gracie chatted to them at breakfast as you do ha-ha. She went with her support carer, Sally who also had the best time but both came home exhausted but it was worth it. Everyone who came said what a fantastic evening it had been. Steve Edwards said how much he'd enjoyed the event and how impressed he had been by everyone who took part.

Oh what a night! Oh what a show. We look forward to your entries for 2019!

Elaine Mills

Fostering and Recruitment Projects Officer