

## Fostering's Got talent 2017

Nottinghamshire County Council's fostering service hosted a fabulous evening showcasing some incredible talent from our fostering community on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at West Notts College's Create Theatre in Mansfield. This is the second year that this event has been held and has become a firm fixture on the services calendar!

Fourteen young people came together to create ten acts. Taking to the stage, we had singers, dancers, a poet and a comedian who entertained the audience for 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 dress rehearsal! There were a few nerves, but the organisation that had gone into the evening and the professional support from team at Create Theatre soon put the young people at ease.

The show opened at 6.30pm with our very own 'Ant and Dec' (aka Naomi Sills, Service Manager and Kath Hughes, Fostering Team Manager) who 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, Mattilde Stokes and Kat Henderson, performing arts students from the college each performed two songs beautifully.

Every act received a 'Certificate of Achievement' presented by Steve Edwards, Service Director and Shelagh Mitchell, Group Manager,

The show closed with the presenting of prizes.

**First Prize** – Pair of tickets for the Semi- final of Britain's Got Talent kindly donated by Fremantle Media Ltd PLUS £100 towards travel/accommodation donated by the Foster Liaison and Advisory Group (FLAG), **Second and Third Prize** - £50 and £25 High Street Vouchers respectively, donated by FLAG.

Steve and Shelagh were joined by the Chair of FLAG to present the prizes. Shannon who performed her own poem won and was over the moon to be given tickets to the semi-final of BGT –a show she hopes to perform at herself one day. Gracie came second having performed a free-style dance to Fleur East's 'Play that Sax' and Chloe won third prize with her dance interpretation to a Hound Dog/New Girl music mix.

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 ..... look out for details of our next show in 2018 ..... you can start rehearsing now!

Elaine Mills  
Fostering and Recruitment Projects Officer