

Fostering's Got Talent

The fostering service hosted a fabulous evening showcasing so much talent from our fostering community on Friday, 13th May, 2016. Fifteen young people and a foster carer came together to create ten acts taking to the stage at Mansfield library's auditorium. We had singers, dancers and comedians 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 rehearsal! There were a few nerves, but the organisation that had gone into the evening and the professional support from Youth Services technical and stage management team, soon put the young people at ease.

The show opened at 6.30pm and the first five acts set the bar high. Free popcorn and ice cream was 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 vote counting and certificate production took place, Nottinghamshire County Council's wonderful staff choir, joined '*for one night only*;' by two fostering colleagues Vanessa Armstrong and Chris Smith entertained everyone with well-known songs.

Their set finished with a lovely rendition of the 'Bare Necessities' song, karaoke style, with the audience participating. All the young people were thrilled to get back up on stage and join in.

Almost too many to choose from, but perhaps one of the most emotional parts of the evening was when foster carers' daughter, Lizzie took to the stage as the tenth and final act – suddenly overcome with shyness, the young people who had already participated were quick to offer to join her on stage and sing along with her. Taylor Swift song at the ready, it was great to see everyone joining in and supporting each other.



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Every act received a '*Certificate of Achievement*' presented by Shelagh Mitchel Group Manager and were as follows:

Tianna – singing;
Sam – comedian;
Chloe – dancing;
Paige reciting her own poem;
Shana and Jorja – dancing;
Lesley – comedian;
Jessica, Bethany, Melody and Amellia – singing group entitled, 'Fourth Impact';
Georgina – singing;
Phoebe – singing;
Noralisa and Tilleah – dancing;
Lizzie - singing.

And so to the presentations. It was a very close count. The winners were awarded their prizes by the evening's compare and host, Jayne Austin, former Service Manager. Tianna, who opened the show with a cover version of an Adele song won £100 high street gift vouchers; second place went to Noralisa and Tilleah with their dance to a Justin Bieber hit, winning £50 and third place, Jorja and Shana won £25 dancing to a song by Birdy.

Everyone who came said what a fantastic evening it had been. Steve Edwards, Service Director, Childrens Social Care 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 2017 coming shortly you can start rehearsing now!

Elaine Mills
Fostering and Recruitment Projects Officer