

## Gary Francis Young Achiever Awards

### Who is the Gary Francis Achievement Award for?

The award is open to all young people who meet the following criteria:

- Young people aged 16 - 25
- Young people who live or were born in Hackney
- Young people who have overcome a particular difficulty or barrier and then gone on to achieve by making a difference to their life or the lives of others
- Young people who have been enterprising in some way

The young person has given consent to be nominated by a local voluntary and community organisation and is available to attend the ceremony on the evening of 11 February 2020.

Here are two examples of what we are looking for:

Darren used to hang around with the E9 gang. Unfortunately, he got involved in drug dealing to finance his mother's care needs. As a result Darren had two spells in prison. Whilst in prison, Darren made the decision he wanted to change and when he got out he started to volunteer with his local youth project and set up his own window cleaning service which provides him with enough income to live on. He now runs workshops at local schools to steer young people away from the negative aspects of gang life.

Makeda had been in and out of care since losing both her parents. At one point Makeda had to do things which she wasn't proud of to make ends meet and lived from time to time on the streets. After getting housed, Makeda got involved in her local housing association and helped out at the older people's luncheon club. Despite a poor experience of education, Makeda has worked hard in her own time to get a place at University where she is studying to become a social worker.

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- What the young person has achieved?
- What barrier or barriers the young person has overcome?
- What plans the young person has for the future?

Still got questions about the Fund and need to talk to someone? Please contact:

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