

## **80 young people trek to City Hall despite travel chaos to celebrate their work with communities.**

80 young people and their guests, community leaders and supporters of the charity trekked to City Hall this evening to celebrate Graduation from The Challenge.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, hosting the event, congratulated young people: "From conquering mountains, to raising money for older people in their local communities, I applaud the efforts of every young person involved in the Challenge. These achievements require excellent team work and I want all the graduates to become ambassadors and help more young people take a journey of the lifetime. "

Craig Morley, CEO of The Challenge charity:

"The young people proved their stamina, perseverance and leadership skills by getting to the event. It has been great to see them at the end of this amazing journey having achieved so much for themselves and their communities."

If you would like to be part of next year's programme if you are 16, a parent or want to volunteer visit [www.the-challenge.org](http://www.the-challenge.org).

The Challenge's aims are to help young people, aged 16 understand the responsibilities of adulthood, to bring them together with people of different social backgrounds and to motivate them to get involved in strengthening their local communities.

The programme recruits mixed teams to do an intensive course that includes physical, creative and social action challenges. It culminates in them planning and running their own community project. This year hundreds of young people made a real impact in London through The Challenge. The Graduation tonight is one of three events to celebrate their achievements.

### **Notes to editors:**

The programme has been going for two years and has three main sections:

**The Personal Challenge:** One week of outdoor activities for 5 teams of 12 people in a residential setting to bond the teams together, build self-awareness, a sense of personal responsibility and trust.

**The Team Challenge:** Teams are challenged to serve their local community using skills they are passionate about (e.g. designing and performing a show for residents of an Age UK day centre, staging a public debate in the community about a local issue, running a multi-sport skills coaching course for young children).

**The Real Challenge:** Teams have a week, working alongside community representatives, to explore some of the key challenges facing their neighbourhood and commit to a project that will bring the community together (e.g. organise a street party, neighbourhood gallery, community sports day etc.). Each team then has four weekends to plan and deliver these projects, with the support of a dedicated mentor and a full-time community organiser.

- A typical team of 12 young people will be drawn from 10-15 local schools plus referrals from other youth organisations.

- Photographs of programme activities at the following links:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/45159087@N05/sets/72157623249517832/> (Real Challenge)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/45159087@N05/sets/72157623124849735/> (Team Challenge)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/45159087@N05/sets/72157623249448790/> (Personal Challenge)

- The Challenge Network is an independent, registered charity (no. 1129239) established in April 2009, with headquarters in Lambeth.
- The Challenge Network's Chairman is Patrick Shine. Patrick is a partner of The Shaftesbury Partnership and has extensive experience in social entrepreneurship, including six years with UnLtd. The executive team draw on professional and voluntary experience from the private, public and charitable sectors: Craig Morley, Chief Executive (Procter & Gamble, The Prince's Trust, Raleigh International); Jon Yates, Director of Programmes (Tear Fund, Acumen Fund); Doug Fraley, Director of Talent & Marketing (U.S. Army, Google).
- The charity's Advisory Board includes Stephen Peck (Director of Operations, The Scouts), Ginny Lunn (Director of Policy and Development for The Prince's Trust), John May (Chief Executive of Young Enterprise), Nick Wilkie (Chief Executive of London Youth) and Stacey Adams (Chief Executive of Raleigh International).
- Trustees include Phillip Udeh (founder of Community Builders and a founding youth trustee of V), Alison Inglis-Jones (public affairs professional and leader of community mentoring projects in South London) and Richard Sargeant (Department for Energy and Climate Change and founding director of Engineers without Borders, UK), Paul Armstrong, Investment Manager at Permira and Stephen Peck, Director of Operations, The Scouts.
- The charity has been funded by a variety of private philanthropists, trusts and foundations.
- The Challenge Network partners with a wide variety of organisations to deliver The Challenge, including Envision, The Outward Bound Trust, The Prince's Trust, Young Enterprise and London Youth.
- The Challenge Network web site is [www.the-challenge.org](http://www.the-challenge.org).

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