

PRESS RELEASE

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Youth Times wins Lottery funding

A three-year grant from the Big Lottery has just been awarded to Youth Times - the Rural Media Company's youth-led media project that provides training, skills and a voice for young people.

The grant will allow Youth Times to expand its outreach programme, working closely with more young people in Herefordshire schools and after-school programmes, youth clubs, day centres and other projects.

As well as gaining practical media and communications skills and literacy, young people say Youth Times also enhances their confidence and status because their views and opinions about local communities and wider society are taken more seriously. Young people produce Youth Times' e-magazine InSITE (www.insitemag.net), which explores topics as varied as the use of the horse tranquilliser ketamine by young people, the development of a youth council for Herefordshire and how to buy your first car.

'This award from the Big Lottery's Young People's Fund is fantastic news,' says The Rural Media Company's chief executive, Nic Millington. 'All too often good projects that have just started to make a real impact on people's lives have to stop and be re-invented to attract new funding'.

Young people were involved from the outset in articulating what Youth Times has achieved over the last few years and how they now want to see it develop. Key points they made were that they wanted more young people to benefit from the opportunity to produce and publish their own media, more chances to have their voice heard, and for a wider range of young people to become involved including those living in very isolated rural areas.

Release Ends

Note to Editors

- The Rural Media Company works throughout the UK. We combine community and informal education, training and advocacy with the professional skills of the media industry. The results are effective, high-impact, high-quality media projects and educational materials at the cutting edge of current policy and debate. The Rural Media Company is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.
- Youth Times receives support from The Rank Foundation, Comic Relief, the Single Regeneration Budget through the Herefordshire Partnership and the Herefordshire Community Youth Service, and the Big Lottery Young People's Fund.

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