

Helping Hands Award

SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Running annually for the last four years and recently receiving charitable status, the Helping Hands Award aims to enhance community cohesion across Nottinghamshire by tackling anti-social behaviour and crime.

The charity works with primary school children to help them identify issues in their local community, decide which to tackle, develop projects and complete and present their submissions, which are then judged in a competition.

At an annual awards ceremony prizes are presented to schools and individual children of up to £1,000, with all children who take part receiving a certificate of participation.

The Helping Hands Award is endorsed by many local businesses, worthy individuals (e.g. councillors and MPs) and agencies including Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Freemasons.

In addition, vital key partners are Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue, whose school liaison officers work with the children on projects including tackling speeding outside schools, graffiti and littering in local parks, and working with BME, homeless and older people.

Since it began, the charity has grown from working with one school to schools across the county, with its assessment criteria now amended to link in with Ofsted and the National Curriculum on Citizenship. Its work costs £5,000 per year, which is funded by local businesses and other donations.

The work of the Helping Hands Award has increased children's awareness of community issues and increased their sense of pride, which will reduce the likelihood of them carrying out anti-social behaviour and crime as they grow up.

The charity has also achieved positive outcomes for the communities involved as a whole and helped break down barriers between cultural groups.

Nottinghamshire Police have recently undertaken a review of the work of the charity and are happy to continue to commit their officers' time and effort into supporting its work in the future.

For further information on the Helping Hands Award visit www.helpinghandsaward.org.