



PRESS RELEASE – Strictly embargoed until 9am Friday 7 May 2021

New Writing North shortlisted for the Charity Awards 2021

New Writing North is delighted to announce that it has made the shortlist for this year's Charity Awards, the longest-running and most prestigious awards scheme in the charity sector.

New Writing North has been shortlisted in the Arts, Culture and Heritage category for its Young Writers programme, which supports young people to express their ideas, to work with professional writers and artists, to create and share new work and to meet other young writers.

The Charity Awards, which announces its shortlist today (7 May), is the sector's most highly-regarded excellence recognition scheme. All 27 shortlisted charities this year have been judged by an independent panel of sector leaders as having demonstrated best practice in leadership and management, from which other organisations can learn.

New Writing North Young Writers works with thousands of young people each year to identify and nurture talent, leadership skills and creative habits. The programme promotes wellbeing and develops confidence and peer connection, providing pastoral support and a listening ear as well as artistic development. Both within schools and in open-access community groups it offers consistent, free-to-access, year-round creative writing provision in towns and cities across the North East. Due to systemic inequality, New Writing North focuses its resources in areas where

young people have fewer opportunities to get involved in culture. Through the programme young people have the opportunity to try a wide range of art forms, from songwriting to scripting and performing in their own short films. New Writing North's long-term and consistent approach means young people become comfortable with artistic self-expression and develop a network of peers and professionals that they can co-create and collaborate with.

The ten category winners, plus the recipients of the Overall Award for Excellence and the Daniel Phelan Award for Outstanding Achievement, will be announced at a live-streamed online awards ceremony on 10 June.

Uniquely for 2021, the Charity Awards will also be announcing a winner in a special new category, the Rathbones Covid-19 Response Award, to celebrate the charity sector's fantastic contribution in responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

The event will be hosted by political commentator, writer and comedian Ayesha Hazarika, who will be joined at the ceremony by a host of celebrities. All the shortlisted charities are invited to watch and be part of the live event.

Matthew Nolan, chief executive of Civil Society Media, which organises the Charity Awards, congratulated all the shortlisted charities on making the highly-coveted shortlist. He said:

"In the spring of last year, we took the very difficult decision to put the 2020 Charity Awards on ice, until we had clearer visibility on how the pandemic would play out.

"Throughout the year we watched with dismay as the charity sector was buffeted by a triple-whammy of losing millions of pounds of fundraising income, being forced to re-engineer services to comply with lockdown and social distancing restrictions, and facing big spikes in demand for those services.

“But 12 months on, we are so impressed with how the sector has risen to the challenges and responded magnificently to the health, social care and economic crisis that Covid-19 has wrought. There is no better time to celebrate charities and their incredible work, so we have decided to resurrect the 2020 awards and honour the applications that were submitted. The nominees on this year’s shortlist are large and small charities who are truly leaders in their field.

“We have also launched a special new category this year, to celebrate the sector’s fantastic achievements in responding to the pandemic. We have been blown away by the resilience, ingenuity and commitment that shines through in these entries – they are a vivid snapshot of the huge value that charities bring to this country.”

Andy Pitt, head of charities – London at Rathbones, overall partner of the Charity Awards, said:

“The Charity Awards celebrate leadership, good governance, innovation and excellence. As investment managers we do everything we can to support the work that the sector does and promoting best practice is an important part of our relationship with charities.”

“The past year has brought huge challenges for the charity sector, but it has also highlighted the importance of its contribution, without which people around the world would be significantly weakened. We are delighted to support these awards and to honour the brilliant work of UK charities large and small.”

Anna Disley, Director of Programme and Impact at New Writing North, said:

“We are delighted to have been shortlisted for this award. Our work supports young people to express their hopes, fears and aspirations and it encourages a sense of belonging. At this time of flux and unease, we believe culture has a huge role to play in supporting young people to lead happy and fulfilled lives, and we thank the Charity Awards in recognising our efforts to achieve this.”

The Shortlist 2021

Arts, Culture and Heritage	Jerwood Arts
	LOOSE
	New Writing North
Campaigning and Advocacy	Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Partnership
	CARE International UK
	Safe Passage
Children and Youth	Aberlour Child Care Trust
	Friends Families and Travellers
	Lifelites
Disability	The Children's Trust
	NOW Group
Education and Training	Breaking Barriers
	Samaritans
	Stephens and George Centenary Charitable Trust
Environment and Conservation	CPRE, the countryside charity
	Trees for Cities
Grantmaking and Funding	The Bulldog Trust
	Five Talents UK
Healthcare and Medical Research	The Lewis Foundation
	Maggie Keswick Jenck's Cancer Caring Centres Trust
	SeeAbility
International Aid and Development	Conciliation Resources
	Excellent Development
	Theatre for a Change
Social Care, Advice and Support	The Bike Project
	SafeLives
	Suffolk Family Carers

For more information about the Charity Awards 2021, including contacts at the shortlisted charities, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

The Charity Awards 2021, now in its 21st year, is organised by Civil Society Media, publishers of *Charity Finance*, *Fundraising* and *Governance & Leadership* magazines and www.civilsociety.co.uk.

The Charity Awards is sponsored by Rathbones Investment Management. Rathbones is a constituent company in the FTSE4Good Index, an index of businesses that behave responsibly and demonstrate strong environmental, social and governance credentials. Rathbones also has its own charitable foundation which donates to various causes, and its employees raise large amounts of money each year for charity, which the firm matches.

The distinguished panel of judges for 2021 is:

- **Su Sayer OBE**, chair of judges
- **Ruth Davison**, chief executive, Refuge
- **Martin Edwards**, chief executive, Julia's House
- **Richard Hawkes**, chief executive, British Asian Trust
- **Monica Brown**, head of charity advisory and programmes, Charities Aid Foundation
- **Chris Michaels**, director of digital, communications, and technology, the National Gallery
- **Kris Murali**, director of finance and resources, the Scouts
- **Cathy Phelan-Watkins**, owner and director, Civil Society Media
- **Andrew Pitt**, head of charities – London, Rathbones
- **Chris Sherwood**, chief executive, RSPCA

- **Paul Streets**, chief executive, Lloyds Bank Foundation England and Wales

New Writing North is the development agency for creative writing and reading in the North of England, and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. The organisation works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as the New Writing North Young Writers, Northern Writers' Awards, the Gordon Burn Prize, Read Regional, and Durham Book Festival. New Writing North specialises in developing and investing in writers of all ages and act as a dynamic broker between writers, producers, publishers and broadcasters across the creative industries. Partners include BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 Drama, Faber & Faber, Sky Studios and higher education partners including Durham University, Northumbria University and University of York. As a producer of new work, New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing from topical essays and publications to award-winning dance theatre productions, short films, live literature and broadcast projects.

newwritingnorth.com

Find out more about the Young Writers programme from the [New Writing North Young Writers Impact Report 2019-20](#)