

NEWS

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“HEADLINERS IS ADDICTIVE: THE MORE YOU GET INVOLVED THE MORE YOU WANT TO TAKE ON. I’VE HAD SUCH AMAZING EXPERIENCES, INTERVIEWING PEOPLE FROM HIV VICTIMS IN THE SLUMS OF NAIROBI, TO MPs, TO RICHARD BRANSON, AND EACH INTERVIEW HAS BROADENED MY MIND, HELPED MY CONFIDENCE AND DEVELOPED MY JOURNALISM SKILLS.”

Ella, 17



## MAKING NEWS >

Welcome to Headliners...

Headliners is a personal development and learning through journalism programme for young people aged 8-19. We are a registered charity with over 10 years of experience, under our former name Children’s Express, of promoting young people’s voices through our national news agency run for and by young people.



### WHAT WE DO

**Our mission >** To inspire children and young people to investigate and challenge the world around them, enhance their personal development and promote their right to be heard as equals.

**Publication and broadcasting >** Young people research issues and produce stories for publication and broadcast in the mainstream media. Recent work includes broadcasts for Sky News and BBC Radio 4, and publication in The Guardian, local newspapers and websites covering issues such as gang wars, HIV/AIDS and size zero women.

We also make documentaries in partnership with organisations such as Save the Children. The stories are produced by the young people themselves supported by adult journalists.

**Participation >** Young people are at the centre of Headliners and get involved in decision making at every level. We assist other organisations to develop participation strategy by training adults and young people in areas such as the recruitment of staff, business planning and influencing policy in their communities. Young people from Headliners can become trustees after the age of 18.

**Partnership and outreach >** Headliners works in partnership with voluntary and government organisations, raising the voice of young people in their own communities.

Our focus is on young people who are isolated or at risk of exclusion, those who are disabled or have experienced being in care and young people from minority groups.

We work on an outreach basis with many groups in their own communities, but also aim to bring young people together in our centres in London, Newcastle, Belfast and Derry to learn from each other and celebrate diversity.

## CHANGING LIVES >

### WHAT WE BELIEVE

All children and young people have the right to have their voices heard on an equal platform with adults.

Young people’s learning is improved by the opportunity to work together in groups of mixed ages, abilities and backgrounds. This raises aspirations, promotes tolerance and helps the celebration of diversity.

Journalism is a powerful vehicle for furthering the personal and social development of children and young people by giving them the ability to think critically about the world and express what they think in a clear and engaging manner. Practising journalism requires them to engage in the civic life of their communities.

Trusting young people to take decisions about their lives, enhances their confidence and aspirations.

Our staff and our partners should always strive to achieve the highest standards in everything that we do.

### WHAT WE ACHIEVE

“I think I have changed a lot. I feel I am more confident, more able to communicate properly with others and more knowledgeable about reporting, technology and the working world in general.” **Clare, 17**

“It’s like: What do you think? What do you think? I am not used to that. People don’t often ask me what I think. They don’t usually care.” **Aysha, 14**

“Before, nearly all of my friends were from the same background, but being here has enabled me to branch out and make new friends.” **John, 17**

“You become more comfortable talking in front of people and more comfortable saying what you think.” **Sean, 12**

“I would have been quite a different person if I hadn’t joined. If I could, I would definitely do it all again.” **Oliver, now 23**

### 12 YEARS OF HEADLINERS

- > 2500 young people have had the opportunity to learn and develop their skills
- > A further 1500 have had their views published or broadcast
- > 1200 stories have been produced for publication and 30 magazines published
- > More than 50 films, documentaries and TV packages have been made and more than 50 radio packages have been broadcast
- > Over 500 young people supported by Headliners have been involved in advising local and national government across the UK on policy and have participated in decision making. They have interviewed over 300 politicians and people in power
- > More than 30 young people have travelled to 10 countries outside the UK from Japan to Ghana and Canada to South Africa on stories affecting young people worldwide.
- > In a survey among young people from Headliners:
  - 75% said they had improved job prospects
  - 75% worked in a team better
  - 70% felt better about their future
  - 65% improved self confidence
  - 60% acquired better office skills

**“I LIKE THE FACT YOU CAN PRODUCE A PIECE OF JOURNALISM JUST AS GOOD AS AN ADULT JOURNALIST. IT HAS TOTALLY CHANGED AND DEVELOPED MY ATTITUDE TO MANY THINGS AND ISSUES. I TRY TO BE MORE OPEN MINDED AND MORE UNDERSTANDING.”**

Samir, 16



## MAKING NEWS >

### CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Headliners, formerly Children's Express, celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2005. This marked not only a decade of successfully promoting the voices and personal development of young people through our programmes of learning through journalism, but also a time for taking stock of our activities in order to re-launch the charity into a new exciting period of growth.

We have implemented a three year development plan which will see the organisation grow significantly and reach more young people. This proposed expansion emerged as a result of a major review of governance and operations.

Although ambitious, the plan allows for incremental growth, allowing us to drive through the roll out of our successful programmes in new locations. Our challenge was to build an appropriate management infrastructure and staff team with the right skills in order to support the demands that growth will inevitably make on the organisation. This has now been achieved and will allow Headliners to provide a service which is responsive and flexible to the many requests received from government and other organisations.

Partnerships with local and central government and our colleagues in the voluntary sector are becoming increasingly important and productive. We work with charities such as Save the Children and Barnardos to produce films to raise the voice of young people who are particularly disadvantaged, isolated or at risk.

Partnership with the new Office of the Children's Commissioner in England has given the chance for young people from Headliners to assist the Commissioner in building his senior management team and develop his business plan.

Our decision to re-brand the organisation will allow us to pursue our main objective to reach more young people across the UK from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds.

**Arwyn Thomas**

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This is an exciting new episode for Headliners. New opportunities, new challenges and the limitless potential of new media are on offer to the young people we involve and the many others we want to reach.

Our unique charity raises the voice of young people by supporting them to produce stories of vital concern to them for broadcast and publication in the mainstream media. But there has never been a greater need for Headliners than there is now.

Young people are increasingly under attack in the media and in our society and it is the role of Headliners to support young people to use the media to raise their collective voice and win respect in our communities.

The multi-media digital age gives Headliners a wonderful opportunity to produce more material and have it published or broadcast in many different ways. Our re-developed website enables us to promote the views of more young people who cannot personally access our service through our centres or outreach programmes. It is a vital resource and archive for everyone to discover the views of young people, as it showcases all our young people's work including video and audio.

There is a wide diversity of cultures and experiences represented in the groups of young people who get involved in Headliners, and it is important that young people who are least likely to have a voice are not left behind as new opportunities arise to communicate.

We want them to make the headlines by making adults sit up and listen and give them the confidence to take an active part in their communities and acquire valuable skills for life.

A Big Lottery grant, significant support from the Department for Education and Skills and contracts with local authorities alongside our re-branding is enabling us to expand and benefit more young people.

**Fiona Wyton**

## CHANGING LIVES >

### OUR PROGRAMMES

**Membership >** Delivered in our centres bringing together a diverse range of young people who have a long-term engagement (over six months) with Headliners taking part in many projects and activities.

**Radio, TV, print >** A series of 12 week programmes learning the principles and skills of print, radio or TV journalism. They produce work for publication and broadcast in the mainstream media. This programme provides accreditation through the Open College Network in reporting, editing, communication and writing for meaning.

**Participation >** Young people have a say on the issues and services that affect them in their local authority, government department or any partner organisation. They produce magazines, video and other material which goes to policy and decision-makers who are challenged to respond.

**Peer training >** The peer training programme enables young people to provide training to other young people and provide participation training for adults. They also make presentations to government and at other relevant conferences. The programme is soon to be accredited.

### THE BENEFITS

#### Headliners aims to:

- > raise aspirations and self esteem
- > improve communication and literacy skills
- > enhance analytical and critical thinking
- > promote tolerance and good citizenship
- > celebrate diversity and achievement

### ANNABEL, 20

**“I began my journey at Headliners as an interviewee. I sat in a room with a team of young journalists – some of whom had questioned Tony Blair for Sky News on the eve of the election – and was impressed by the opportunities they had. Age and your background weren't relevant and they were trusted to do the stories independently.**

**I started attending and received peer induction training. Personal highlights include: an opinion piece being published in the Independent newspaper the day I received my AS level grades, interviewing the former Children's Minister Margaret Hodge for Sky News, influencing government policy and delivering peer training.**

**I was privileged to work with staff journalists**

**dedicated to quality journalism and youth participation and I've met many talented young people. I never realised what I could be and Headliners has helped to raise my aspirations – being a young person doesn't mean that you can't have a positive voice in the media. With all the skills I learnt I got the job as an uploader on Guardian Unlimited, and am now the politics sub-editor – the youngest person to work on the site.**

**I was appointed a trustee of Headliners in 2006.”**





## MAKING NEWS >

### JOURNALISM

We use journalism as both a personal development tool and to promote participation through enabling young people's voices to be represented in the mainstream media. Everything published or broadcast is available on the Headliners website - [www.headliners.org](http://www.headliners.org).

**TV >** In June 2006 two members of Headliners went to Kenya to see how young people there are helping to solve the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Ella Parry Davies, 17, and Ghizlan Akerbousse, 13, spent a week visiting projects around Nairobi and filmed a report that was shown on BBC News 24 and Sky News. Ella was also invited onto BBC News 24 to talk about what she had found out in Africa.

Meanwhile, in October 2006, three members of our Foyle newsroom, Niall Bradley, Terri McLaughlin and Brian Smyth, made a video to coincide with a year long project. The Global Eye project looked at HIV/AIDS as both a local and global issue.



**Radio >** Two Headliners members, Usman and Jason, took part in a radio discussion programme on EC1 Radio; a community radio station in central London. We've now built an on-going partnership with them, to help develop our young people.

We contributed to a number of BBC programmes including the Generation Next campaign on the World Service, as presenters, contributors and producers. Our reporters have appeared on You and Yours on BBC Radio 4, and we've also been involved in producing radio packages for distribution by Sky News Radio to over 40 UK radio stations, and BBC Radio in Northern Ireland.

**Print >** In response to continuing negative reporting of British teenagers, 17-year-old Siobahn Slowey wrote a robust defence of young people for The Guardian in September 2006.

Through Headliners, several of our young people contributed



**"I HAVE GAINED SO MUCH FROM THE BASIC JOURNALISTIC SIDE TO CONFIDENCE I HAVE ACQUIRED BECAUSE OF THE PROJECT. I HAVE TAKEN PART IN SO MUCH – PRINT JOURNALISM, RADIO WORK AND MOST RECENTLY PEER EDUCATION. I HAVE ALSO HAD THE CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN AN EXCHANGE WITH PEOPLE FROM ITALY AND ESTONIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND WHO CAME TOGETHER TO MAKE AN HOUR LONG RADIO PACKAGE."**

Nicole, 16

## CHANGING LIVES >

to Children Now, the magazine for those working in the children's sector. Kauthar Siddique-Parks wrote about how new technology means that people from across the world are learning from each other. We've also had articles published in New Internationalist, the Police Newsletter, the Japan Times, and the Vegetarian, among others.

**Web >** In 2006 we provided over 150 columns written by young people for Sky's Reach for the Sky website. Over 40 young people have been involved. 11-year-old Sarra and eight-year-old Ziyad wrote a column on why women's football should have equal status as the men's game. Sorcha Boyle, from Derry, took up the issue of ASBOs, which were introduced into Northern Ireland in 2005. She questioned whether adults would be treated in the same way.

We've also had features on the BBC's Blast and Newsround websites, and the Citizenship Foundation's G-Nation website.



### LYRA, 16

**"When I look back on my achievements ten years from now, I know I'll say that Headliners was what changed it all for the better.**

**Before joining, I didn't have anything in particular to be proud of, except perhaps a rather bizarre love of writing. I wasn't a straight-A student, like some of my schoolmates, or one of the more popular ones, and I certainly never made the Northern Ireland under-16 football squad, as a few did. The only thing I was really good at was that passion for writing, and an insatiable curiosity which drove most people well beyond insanity!**

**It was with the help of my friends at Headliners, staff and members, that I won Young Journalist of the Year 2006 from Sky News. They broke down so**

**many barriers for me, building my confidence and my faith in myself.**

**Headliners gave me a dream to strive for, to be a successful investigative journalist. The impact it has had on my life is dumbfounding. It is the reason I am continuing my education, in the hope of realising my dream. And the reason I can count myself as equal and worthy as those friends whose achievements used to dwarf my own. But thanks to Headliners, they don't, and can't, anymore."**



# "HEADLINERS CONTINUES TO AMAZE – YOUNG JOURNALISTS BRING A REAL VIBRANCY AND TRUTH TO THE KEY ISSUES OF THE MOMENT, THEY RESEARCH AND PRODUCE COLUMNS WHICH ARE ALWAYS TO A VERY PROFESSIONAL STANDARD FOR SKY."

Daniella Dowling, Senior Community Investment Manager, BSKyB.

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## A Day in the life of Headliners...

It's not every day you get to make a video report that gets shown on the BBC, or write a report that gets published in a national newspaper or help a major organisation with its business planning.

**09:15** > Our outreach workers arrive in a Pupil Referral Unit in central London. Using journalism as a starting point, we get young people who struggle in conventional education to have the opportunity to challenge the world around them. Today, two community police officers have agreed to be interviewed by our young people on the subject of gang violence.

**10:30** > Staff in Belfast are busy preparing a video report that has been commissioned by another charity. They know our young people are experts in delivering messages both to other young people and adults, and like our fresh and honest approach.

**12:20** > We've had a phone call from a national radio station to request someone to go and talk about failing schools on tonight's flagship programme. Although we don't encourage our young people to be used just as talking heads, because our reporter has recently researched this story, they go on and talk about what they have discovered.

**14:00** > An outreach project is allowing profoundly deaf young people the opportunity to make a video that explores issues they face every day in life. They hope the video can be shown to their friends and relatives who often don't understand the real difficulties they can encounter.

**14:45** > In a primary school in Hackney, our project worker is running a workshop for a small group of young people; helping them produce an article for What's Up? magazine. The quarterly magazine is produced entirely by Headliners and gives younger children a real

opportunity to get their views heard. And it's a great read.

**15:00** > In our Foyle centre, our young people are involved in running a training session for a group of other young people in the purpose-built radio studio. As well as producing our own

material, we're keen to show other people how to make great radio and TV.

**16:10** > After school our Belfast centre gets busy. Several young people are preparing to go out and do vox-pops on the issue of being in debt. Another one of our young people is writing a weekly column for the Sky website.

**16:45** > In London we're running a photography course for our members. As visual imagery becomes ever more important, our members need to know how to take great photos as well as write crisp copy.

**17:30** > The evening paper in Northern Ireland has just been published and members in Foyle eagerly look through for their commissioned piece. Following comments made by the local police, they wrote about the problems of the annual Hallowe'en Carnival in the city, and why young people weren't totally to blame.

**18:15** > In our London newsroom four of our peer trainers are preparing for a session they will be running at the Office of the Children's Commissioner this Saturday. They'll be leading other young people from both London and the North East of England to look at the objectives and priorities for the OCC over the next three years.

**19:45** > On an estate in south London, a group of 12 young people have gathered to take part in an evening outreach project that we run. They are talking about the recent campaign to ban people playing music loudly on the buses, and want to do some vox-pops at a nearby tube station to see whether members of the public think such a ban could be enforced. They are also planning to arrange interviews with someone from London Transport and the Mayor of London's office.



## JORDAN, 12

**"My name's Jordan and I've been a member of Headliners for roughly three years now. I first got involved with Headliners through another group known as the Children's Parliament.**

**We went on a trip to the office because we were being interviewed for Loud 'n' Clear magazine. I really liked it there, so I joined at the following training session!**

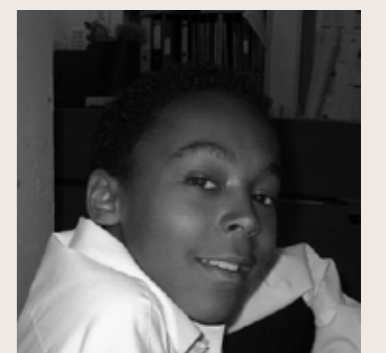
**Since I joined, Headliners has enabled me to do the sorts of things I never thought I'd be able to do. I've been on the radio twice, and made a feature for the BBC on school dinners, which was really exciting.**

**This year I wrote a story after learning about what it means to become a vegetarian and trying it for a week. It got published in the Japanese Times!**

**I also wrote for Children Now magazine about participation.**

**I like being able to go and do stories and ask questions. I also like that you can tell the staff how you want the organisation to run. I even got to do the interviews for some new members of staff.**

**Headliners has truly changed my life for the better, and I would recommend it to any young person interested in journalism!"**



**“I REALLY ENJOYED DOING PEER TRAINING; IT OPENS UP SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFE AND HAS HELPED ME GROW AS A PERSON. I FEEL THAT MY SKILLS AS A PEER TRAINER ARE GETTING BETTER DAY BY DAY. I HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN INTERACTING WITH NEW AND DIFFERENT PEOPLE.”**

Sharmin, 15



## MAKING NEWS >

### PEER TRAINING

Peer training is a programme of skills-sharing between peers. Experienced young people from Headliners plan and facilitate workshops, informal sessions and training days for their peers. In these sessions peer trainers use their knowledge, skills and experiences of our programmes to equip their peers with a variety of skills and knowledge of the Headliners programme.

The peer training programme is one of the core elements of the Headliners programme as it exemplifies the participatory nature of what we do and enhances our other programmes. Peer trainers are often at the forefront of bringing about change at Headliners.

#### Benefits for peer trainers

- > Enables them to reaffirm their skills and use them in a new way
- > Developing new facilitation and training skills
- > Transferable skills to other professions
- > New challenge for those who have experienced the programme
- > An opportunity to volunteer and have a greater impact

#### For participants

- > Young people can build an instant rapport with their trainers
- > Adds a different perspective to learning
- > Peer trainers are able to work at the participants level
- > Sessions are planned by young people so participants enjoy them
- > Participants questions can be answered from experience
- > Trainers are a responsible but not authority figure

**Delivery >** In House Training: Peer trainers are responsible for inducting new members and giving them basic journalism training. Peer trainers work with staff to run further training for young people on a variety of skills in the centres and in outreach.

**External Training:** Peer trainers are recruited to deliver workshops and presentations to external audiences of young people and adults in our journalism and participation programmes. Sessions are tailored to the need of the client and peer trainers are supported by staff through the process. They have facilitated workshops in schools, youth clubs, with charities and the public sector.

**Progression >** Young people become peer trainers after the age of 12 and have varying degrees of experience. They receive training according to their needs and continuous support from staff. Headliners has developed an accredited programme of training that will equip peer trainers with the skills not just to be Headliners' facilitators but as facilitators and trainers in their own right.



## CHANGING LIVES >

### PARTICIPATION

The Headliners programme and organisation is founded on young people's participation at every level. Young people receive a peer-led induction when they join, they take part in monthly meetings to decide their programme of activities and they have a steering group which advises the board of trustees. Members who leave the programme at 18 have the opportunity to join the board of trustees. Young people have been involved in all aspects of developing our new mission statement and development plan and a bi-annual conference brings together trustees, staff and young people to develop priorities for the year ahead.

Headliners assists other organisations in developing their participation strategy. Headliners set up and ran the Children and Youth Board of 25 young people that advised the Department for Education and Skills on policy. They were from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences and ran peer-led events with hundreds of other young people to get their views. They were also involved in the recruitment of the first Children's Commissioner in England through devising the person specification, short-listing and interviewing. Since then, we have been assisting the new Commissioner Professor Sir Al Aynsley Green to recruit his senior management team and other posts, running young people-led sessions on business planning and priorities, and helping to design their building.

Other organisations that Headliners has worked with on developing participation strategy include Plan UK, Save the Children and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum.

We work with local authorities to produce magazines and videos which review services in their area and challenge the council and service providers to respond. Young people from Headliners produced a special magazine about the London Borough of Hackney's youth strategy helping them to win the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Award for Excellence in Consultation.

### AOIFE, 16

**“I have been at Headliners for over two years now and it has been a huge learning experience for me. I first joined as a result of my friends' interest in the project and I saw it as a great opportunity to improve my English skills.**

**However, I soon realised that Headliners had so much more to offer me. I've worked on a number of stories, including a print feature on how to make it in the music industry, to doing a radio package on the experiences of a person living with HIV. I've also had the opportunity to do live radio interviews and take part in the making of a First Light film documentary. I have become more conscious of the world around me and becoming a peer trainer, where I share my skills with other young people.**

**Headliners has completely changed me as a person. When I first came to the project I was quite narrow-minded, had low self-esteem and I definitely had what I can only describe as an attitude problem, but that's changed now. I have become a very approachable, open-minded and confident young person; this is due to the organisation and the staff in Foyle. I now look forward to more years of contributing to the organisation.”**





“I WAS UNEMPLOYED FOR A WHILE AND I THOUGHT, ‘NO, I CAN’T DO ANYTHING’. I WAS JUST TOO LAZY. BUT IT’S BEEN GOOD – I’VE ENJOYED IT ALL AND I DON’T WANT IT TO END, SO I’M GOING TO CARRY ON COMING BACK. I BOUGHT A DICTAPHONE RECENTLY FOR MYSELF SO I CAN JUST RUN AROUND RECORDING EVERYONE.”

Francesca, 17

## MAKING NEWS >

### PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORTERS

Headliners values the partnerships that have been established over the years. Our partners assist us in providing the widest possible range of locally delivered services which are responsive to the needs of our young people. Our supporters and funders enable us to deliver these services.

#### Thanks to our partners

Amnesty International, A Space, BBC, Birmingham Institute for the Deaf, Brent Children’s Fund, Bryson Charitable Group, Canllaw-Online (Wales), Chance UK, Children’s Rights Alliance for England, Culture Northern Ireland, Cupboard Project (Leeds), Deaf Association NI, Disability Action, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, European Voluntary Service, Greenwich Children’s Fund, Habitat for Humanity NI, Hexham Youth Initiative, Homefirst Trust, IRMAS Youth Media Summit, Islington African Project, Jordanstown Schools, Kent County Council Youth

Council, Knights of the Round Table, Lancashire Youth and Community Service, Mencap, NCB, NCH, NYA, N14 Kids, North Eastern Education and Library Board, Northern Learning Trust, North Lanarkshire Council Community Learning and Development, Poole Children’s Fund, RNIB, Save the Children, Trocaire, The Scouts Association, Tyneside Deaf Youth Project, UK Youth Parliament, UNESCO, University of Ulster NI, Whizz Kidz, Young Potential (East Midlands), Youth Justice Agency, 16 Plus Group (Kent).

#### Thanks to our supporters

Atlantic Philanthropies, Arts Council Northern Ireland, Barnados (Northern Ireland), BBC Children in Need, Belfast European Partnership Board, Big Lottery Fund, BskyB, Camelot Foundation, Charities Aid Foundation, City Parochial Foundation, Community Fund (Northern Ireland), Creativity Seed Fund, Department

for Education and Skills, Department for International Development, Department for Social Development (Belfast Regeneration Office), Department of Health, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, European Social Fund, First Trust Bank, Glanmore Property Fund Ltd, Hackney Children’s Fund, Harriet’s Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund, Irish Youth Foundation, Islington Children’s Fund, Jack Petchey Foundation, Learning and Skills Council (London Central), News International, The Big Lottery, The Learning Trust (Hackney), Studio8 Design, True Colours Trust, Youth Council for Northern Ireland, for the support they have given over the years.

### WHAT THEY SAY

“When I visited Headliners I was really impressed by the confidence, enthusiasm and ability of all its members. They told me about the fun and their real sense of learning, in a very professional and supportive environment. The support team at Headliners is doing an excellent job in developing the young people’s inquisitive nature and understanding of the media. That will be a great benefit whatever field of work they enter.”

**Will Haire, Permanent Secretary for Education, Northern Ireland**

“We continue to work in partnership with Headliners, which encourages exciting peer-led training and sustainable participation in all decision making which affect babies, children and young people. They have been invaluable partners in recruiting my first-class team.”

**Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green, Children’s Commissioner for England**

## CHANGING LIVES >

### OUTREACH

Much of Headliners’ work takes place with our partners in the community where our staff journalists work with young people, many of whom may be isolated or at risk of exclusion, such as black and minority ethnic groups, or young people who are unemployed or excluded from school.

The aim of these projects is to raise the voices of young people who are least likely to have a voice, review services in the community and encourage young people to become involved in their communities.

The outreach project which pioneered our accredited journalism programme is Project Subway. One group from a Pupil Referral Unit went to Fifteen, the east-London restaurant owned by Jamie Oliver. They interviewed the unemployed young people who were given the chance to become trainee chefs at this prestigious restaurant.

Another of the Project Subway groups is based at Southwark College in London. All the members are profoundly Deaf. They explored what it means to be a Deaf person in Britain. As part of their report they interviewed Evelyn Glennie the Deaf percussionist.

Our work with Deaf young people started in Newcastle in partnership with the Tyneside Deaf Youth Project. The project brought together hearing peer trainers and Deaf young people to produce stories of importance to them. In addition they produced a video with British Sign Language, subtitles and voice-over to introduce other young people to the Headliners story process the Story Mountain. We have used this as a training tool when working with other Deaf young people.

In Belfast, a radio project with young people and our partners at the Royal National Institute for the Blind produced an Eye Matters video and radio package. Some of the blind young people became members of our Belfast newsroom and began to produce all varieties of media and went on to become peer trainers.

### JOANNA, 18

“Headliners has given me the opportunity to experience things I never thought I would be able to. I feel it has opened my mind to things that go on in the world. It’s given me a chance to interview people who can also talk to me about things that affect people in the world, so whether it be about media, or poverty, or anything.”

I’ve only been on this course for a little while but already I’m seeing perks. I’ve been able to interview Channel 4 news presenter, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and talk to him about ‘media, power and truth’, and that was a very interesting conversation.

As the weeks go on, I feel my skills are being built. I’m getting more confident in myself to interview people, whereas before I’d

be a bit timid. It’s just great to know to speak up and just to ask questions if something’s worrying me or that I genuinely want to know the answers to.

I’ve been able to meet other young people of all different ages and discuss issues. It’s great – I have different opinions to someone else’s opinions and I’d look at where they’re coming from and their point of view and I’d say that maybe I’d alter my opinion from here to there. So you get open minded when you come here. It’s good to experience peoples’ different backgrounds.

You’re learning but at the same time it’s exciting. It’s really, really motivating but you don’t realise that you’re covering all these subjects and learning new skills because you’re having so much fun.”

**“I JOINED WHEN I WAS 13 AND BY THE TIME I WAS 14 I HAD ALREADY BEEN COMMISSIONED TO HELP THE GUARDIAN WITH A PIECE THEY WERE DOING ON THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY. AS A RESULT OF THIS WHEN I WAS APPLYING TO GO ON THE CITY UNIVERSITY COURSE, I HAD CUTTINGS THAT DATED BACK YEARS.”**

Carlene Thomas-Bailey, now 21, currently studying a PG Diploma in Newspaper Journalism at City University, London.



## MAKING NEWS >

### TIMELINE

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| <p><b>1994 &gt;</b><br/>Pilot programme begins<br/>Registered as a charity</p> <p><b>1995 &gt;</b><br/>Launched London office</p> <p>Report on International Children's Conference on the Environment involving 85 countries</p> <p><b>1996 &gt;</b><br/>Interview Tony Blair about his plans for education if Labour get into power</p> <p>Young reporters publish their experiences of having their friend stabbed by a rival gang</p> <p><b>1997 &gt;</b><br/>Opened centre in Newcastle</p> <p>Investigate the use of excluding pupils from schools</p> <p><b>1998 &gt;</b><br/>Convened 'Kids these Days', a public seminar on media stereotyping of young people</p> | <p>Young reporters interview Britain's youngest mother</p> <p><b>1999 &gt;</b><br/>Made presentations to the Cabinet Office's Social Exclusion Unit on estates and teenage pregnancy</p> <p>Visited Tanzania as part of a Co-operative Bank and Christian Aid funded project on third world debt</p> <p><b>2000 &gt;</b><br/>Opened a new office in Belfast serving young people from all communities</p> <p>Conducted interviews with 90 young people for a three part Channel 4 programme 'Sex 8-18' broadcast in June 2000</p> <p><b>2001 &gt;</b><br/>Produced four films featuring in-depth interviews with the three main party leaders for the Sky News General Election coverage</p> <p>Involved children and young people in reviewing and</p> | <p>evaluating children's services in the London borough of Islington</p> <p><b>2002 &gt;</b><br/>Produced supplements on young people's views for the Daily Mirror and The Independent</p> <p>Developed the Children's Express story archive as an educational resource for the citizenship curriculum</p> <p><b>2003 &gt;</b><br/>Opened Foyle centre in Derry/Londonderry</p> <p>Reported on Rights into Action, the first international congress of young disabled people held in Wales</p> <p><b>2004 &gt;</b><br/>Produced the Global Eye exhibition and video examining the experiences of immigrants in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Set up and ran the Children and Youth Board which advised the Department for</p> | <p>Education and Skills on policy including children's workforce development</p> <p><b>2005 &gt;</b><br/>Young people from all over the country held interviews with candidates to appoint the first Children's Commissioner in England</p> <p>Celebrated our 10th Birthday</p> <p><b>2006 &gt;</b><br/>Travelled to Kenya to make a film on how young people led projects in Africa were reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS – shown on Sky News, BBC News 24 and ITN – and attended and reported on the World Aids Conference in Canada</p> <p>Interviewed an unaccompanied asylum seeker who is to be returned to her native country where she knows no-one after three years in Britain</p> <p><b>2007 &gt;</b><br/>Relaunch as Headliners</p> |
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## CHANGING LIVES >

### AWARDS

- 1995 >**  
IBM Community Connections Award
- 1996 >**  
Chairman's Special Commendation, British Press Awards
- Esmée Fairbairn Youth Development Award
- Prince's Trust Study Support Award
- 1997, 1998, 1999 >**  
English-Speaking Union International Exchange Award
- 2006 >**  
Sky Young Journalist of the Year Award
- 2006 >**  
Best Writing Award in the British Library Front Page awards

### FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Headliners has a three year development plan to roll out our programmes for the benefit of more young people across the UK.

Our development plan will concentrate on expanding our accredited journalism programme and our peer training programme with young people who are particularly isolated or at risk, including disabled young people, young people with experience of the care system and young people from black and minority ethnic communities.

We will begin with outreach programmes in new areas with the aim of establishing a new centre, as need and demand requires.

With the support of a Big Lottery grant, a grant from the Department for Education and Skills and other funders and clients in England we will be expanding our operations across London and the South East, increasing our work across the North East and setting up programmes in the West Midlands and the North West.

Our current centres in London, Newcastle, Derry and Belfast will continue to build on outreach work as well as bringing together young people from different communities. We will also continue to undertake national projects involving our partners across the UK.

The development of our website will enable us to reach more young people, including those living in rural areas, building an online community in addition to the young people we reach in person.

As well as our geographical spread, we will continue to develop our programmes by listening and learning from the young people who take part in them, so we can be sure that we carry on improving the service and the outcomes for all young people involved in Headliners.

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