

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NDC Says Thanks to Youngsters With a Trip to London**

Young people from Hathershaw & Fitton Hill were given a two day break in London 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March, as a reward for their hard work setting up the Youth Bank and the NDC Youth Forum.

The trip gave the youngsters a chance to see the sights such as Big Ben and the London Eye and do some shopping in the Capital, as well an opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and learn first hand how political decisions are made at Central Government level.

It wasn't just business though as a grand finale the youngsters went go to a night performance of the hit show Billy Elliot the Musical at the Victoria Palace Theatre.

The youngsters London trip was a big thank you to them for establishing the groundbreaking Youth Bank the young people's community grants scheme and the development of the important Youth Forum, which feeds its views directly into the heart of NDC decision-making body, the NDC Board.

Stephen Rogerson age 15 one of the youngsters from Hathershaw who went on the trip said

"This was my second time in London and it was great. My favourite bit was going on the London Eye. At first I was a bit scared but I really enjoyed it. The Houses of Parliament were very impressive and the hotel was great, thanks for the opportunity."

Lauren Maskery age 13 another member of the group said

"Billy Elliot was just brilliant, a completely different experience from just going to the cinema! The House's of parliament was interesting and informative, I think it's a very beautiful building with lots of history and I learned a lot. The best thing was that everyone in the group helped and supported each other"

Graham Bowman, NDC's Young People's Coordinator said.

"This is a great example of NDC's and Oldham Youth Services commitment to the young people and also demonstrates the commitment of local young people in making a positive contributions to their community, clearly not all young people are "Hoodies" they thoroughly deserved to be rewarded in this way"

**ENDS (Issued 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007)**

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