

## Photographers snap up national honours

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Evocative photographs providing a snapshot of North East life are to go on display at London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

The shots, captured by a group of adult learners, have won recognition in the prestigious national MENCAP Snap competition.

The budding photographers are all members of photography groups established by Learning First - a community based training provider which, with funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North East, offers young people and adults routes to further education and employment.

Many of the photographers - who meet at Learning First courses in Cramlington and Blyth - are already skilled snappers, having completed a LEAF award.

The groups enable members to learn the art of camera work, including digital methods and black and white techniques, while also focusing on team work and communications skills.

Kevin Dickson, 46 and from Bedlington will have his work hung in the museum display while work by Geoffrey Simons, 33 and from Cramlington, David McKenna,

43 and from Newbiggen and William Dunn, 59 and from Blyth will feature as part of a showcase reel.

William, who also attends a literacy and numeracy course said: "I really enjoy photography and everything we learn at the group, I've also made some great friends.

"I'm very proud to be have been selected as a runner up and will continue to put my snapping skills to good use."

Learning First photography tutor, Antonia Clark added: "The students have produced some wonderful work over the past year and I'm extremely proud of all of them.

"Not only are they enthusiastic and have great ideas, but they also help each other out with any difficulties."

Chris Roberts, regional director, LSC North East said: "I'm delighted to hear about the achievements of the photography group and how they've developed over the course of their training. It shows learning can be creative and fun."

## ***ENDS***

### **Editor's Note:**

Picture captions:

Pic 1: William Dunn and Antonia Clark

Pic 2: (L to R) Front – Kevin Dickson and Geoffrey Simons

Centre – Antonia Clark

(L to R) Rear - Steven Winters, Alan Olszewski, David McKenna, William Dunn and Alfie Hall

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching

the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

**Media contact:**

Karen Robinson/Ann Barnes, Regional Press Officers, 0191 492 6355, email  
[karen.robinson@lsc.gov.uk/ann.barnes@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.robinson@lsc.gov.uk/ann.barnes@lsc.gov.uk)