

Press Information

Monday 11 February 2008



Kenny Logan visits Norwich to launch The Big Skill Awards 2008

Kenny Logan, former Scottish rugby international, was in Norwich today (Monday 11 February) to launch The Big Skill Awards 2008.

The Big Skill initiative has been launched by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Norfolk in partnership with BBC Radio Norfolk. The Awards will recognise and reward people in Norfolk who have improved their own life or the lives of others through learning.

The LSC and BBC Radio Norfolk are delighted to have Kenny Logan's support for the initiative. Last year, Kenny Logan learnt a new skill when he successfully competed in the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing. In addition to launching The Big Skill, Kenny Logan will return to Norwich in May to present awards and prizes to the winners.

Kenny Logan said: "I am very pleased to be supporting an initiative as worthwhile as The Big Skill. It is so important that regardless of age, people continue to learn new skills – it can have such a positive impact on your life and on the lives of others. I have overcome challenges to learn new skills; including learning to read as an adult due to dyslexia and learning to dance on national television! I hope that this offers some inspiration and encouragement both to those entering the awards and to those who have yet to learn a new skill.

"The Big Skill Awards will recognise people in Norfolk who have already made a real difference and I'm looking forward to returning for the Awards ceremony in May. Good luck to all those who enter the awards."

The Big Skill Awards are open to all people (aged 14 to 100+) who learn and live in Norfolk. Award winners will receive a £250 voucher towards the cost of future learning. There are eight award categories:

- 14 – 16 Learner Award
- 17 – 19 Learner Award
- Adult Learner Award
- Skills for the Community Award
- Skills for Work Award
- Workforce Learning Award
- The Learners' Champion Award
- E-Learning Award

Graham Brough, Area Director, LSC Norfolk said: "The LSC is calling all Norfolk learners and those who help others to learn new skills to enter the Awards. Those people who have excelled in learning or gained skills despite facing personal challenges should be celebrated and in doing so, they can inspire others.

"Encouraging more Norfolk people to have a go at learning is central to The Big Skill. There is such a wide range of learning options available across the county and the LSC wants more people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in learning, develop new skills and be given every opportunity to fulfil their potential."

BBC Radio Norfolk is working in partnership with LSC Norfolk on the awards and a number of its presenters have pledged to learn a new skill over the coming months. David Clayton, Editor, BBC Radio Norfolk said: "We are delighted that LSC Norfolk is linking up with the county's radio station for this exciting initiative. BBC Radio Norfolk's presenters are joining in wholeheartedly to encourage everyone to take up a new skill or learning experience. Radio airwaves are a great way of bringing a vibrant place like Norfolk together, and together we can make a difference to our lives with new challenges."

The Big Skill Awards will culminate in a day long event on Friday 30 May outside the Forum; local schools, colleges and training providers will showcase the different learning opportunities available and Norfolk people will be encouraged to come along and have a go at learning a new skill. The evening awards ceremony with Kenny Logan will follow with live music.

The Award nomination forms are available from the BBC Radio Norfolk Action Desk on 01603 631631 or online at www.bbc.co.uk/norfolk where a form can be downloaded and posted or emailed. Closing date for nominations is 31 March 2008.

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Notes to editors

For further information please contact Lindsey Roffe or Susie Lockwood at Tribe on 01603 417722 lindsey@tribepr.com / susie@tribepr.com

Key dates for The Big Skill Awards 2008

31 March – closing date for nominations

3 – 23 April – judging takes place

28 April – finalists informed and invitations sent

30 May – The Big Skill showcase event and awards ceremony with Kenny Logan

Judging panel

Tim Bishop – Chair of Judges, Head of Region, BBC East

Graham Brough - Area Director, LSC Norfolk

Steve Downes - Education Correspondent, Eastern Daily Press

Fiona McDiarmid - CEO, Connexions Norfolk

Clare Anderson - Successful Norfolk learner

About the Learning and Skills Council

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) aims to improve the skills of young people and adults to ensure that England has a workforce of world class standard by 2020.

The LSC:

- provides free training programmes to young people and adults employed in local businesses
- plans and funds education and training in schools, colleges and sixth forms
- provides advice and supports people wanting to continue in, or return to, education
- provides financial support to young people and adults to allow them to continue in education

LSC Norfolk

LSC Norfolk works with schools, sixth forms, colleges, other training providers and partner organisations such as Connexions to ensure the people of the county have every opportunity to become skilled.

LSC Norfolk is investing £118,200,000 in education and training in Norfolk in 2007/08.

For more information on the LSC, visit www.lsc.gov.uk or telephone the Norfolk office on 0845 019 4173

About BBC Radio Norfolk

Over its 28 years, BBC Radio Norfolk has been one of the most successful of the BBC's 40 Local Radio stations, achieving a warm and close relationship with the county that is the envy of national broadcasters.

It first started broadcasting to Norfolk in September 1980 and has built up a strong reputation for its local news, travel, weather and sport. If it's happening in Norfolk, it'll be on BBC Radio Norfolk; from the euphoria of a promotion season for the Canaries, to the vital overnight programming when the threat of flooding hits Norfolk.

For more information visit www.bbc.co.uk/norfolk