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## **LARNE YOUTH LAUNCH DVD**

Young people from Larne have written and created a DVD entitled 'Use your Brain', which provides information on the harmful effects of Ecstasy, Cannabis and Alcohol.

The production of the DVD was part of a range of materials, which also included mouse mats and posters, designed to raise awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. The materials were launched by the young people involved in the Larne Peer Education Project at a celebration evening to mark the end of the successful three-year project in which over 60 young people have been involved.

At the event, Richard Holden from the Peer Group, who received the Whitbread Young Achievers Community Award for his work on the project, welcomed delegates which included parents and community representatives. Janine Martin, also from the Peer Group, introduced the DVD and described the experiences of the young people while making the film.

Davy Norris, Area Youth Officer, NEELB and member of the Children's Services Planning Group, thanked the young people for their creativity and resourcefulness and explained:

"In finding out there were no local materials of this nature the young people involved set about designing their own, leaving a legacy of materials for agencies to distribute across the Larne area."

Karen McManus, Project Co-ordinator praised the hard work and commitment of the young people as she presented them with a range of certificates gained during the past year including Heart Start, Trainee Leader and OCN Youth Information.

David Shaw, who has been with the Peer Group since 2003, thanked the Children's Services Planning steering group for their support in allowing the Group to achieve what they set out to do.

Copies of the materials including the DVD can be obtained by contacting Larne Community Development Project, Ledcom, Larne on (028) 2826 7976.

The Northern Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Team funded the Peer Education Project.

The Larne Children's Services Planning Group is a sub-group of the Northern Area Children and Young People's Committee, which is lead by the Northern Health and Social Services Board.

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