

Category 4: Empowering young people & citizens

Winner

SignTranslate

www.signtranslate.com

SignTranslate Hospital and SignTranslateGP are innovative web-based communication tools that allow medical staff to communicate with non-English speaking patients – both profoundly deaf sign language users and foreign language speakers. This ensures medical professionals can treat deaf or foreign patients without delay, even if face-to-face interpreting support is not available.

Medical staff can select from an extensive library of medical questions in both applications with instant pre-recorded translations. For deaf British Sign Language (BSL) using patients, this takes the form of video clips in the patient's choice of up to three different dialects of BSL. Non-English speaking hearing patients can see and hear the questions in 12 foreign languages. The judges praised this project for its good use of technology to address a real need very effectively.



Runner-up

Hansard Society – HeadsUp

www.headsup.org.uk

HeadsUp is an online forum which connects 11-18 year olds with politicians and policy-makers from across the political spectrum, to debate political and social issues. The forum is a safe, politically neutral, pre-moderated space for young people to share their perspectives in an informal environment. Five three-week forums take place each academic year on issues selected by HeadsUp users – recent examples include climate change and the effects of the recession on young people.

HeadsUp is used in class by teachers as part of the citizenship curriculum and reaches large numbers of young people, with 3-4,000 unique web site views per month and over 900 schools currently registered. The judges felt that this initiative provides good democratic engagement for young people throughout the UK.



Highly commended:

Information Commissioner's Office – Privacy notices code of practice

www.ico.gov.uk

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the UK's independent authority set up to uphold information rights in the public interest, promoting openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals.

The ICO has a long-standing aim to simplify data protection, and by producing the Privacy notices code of practice they wanted to encourage organisations to move away from lengthy, legalistic privacy notices and provide them with good, clear, practical guidance. This in turn helps organisations to collect information about people legally and appropriately.

The ICO have used clear language, illustrative examples and video clips to translate a difficult piece of law into concepts that any organisation can understand and adopt.

Also shortlisted:

Beatbullying – CyberMentors

www.cybermentors.org.uk

Beatbullying is the UK's first children's charity to devise anti-bullying strategies by young people, for young people.

CyberMentors provides an easy point of entry for young people to find real time help online, if they are being bullied or have any wellbeing issues. It empowers young people to take responsibility for providing their own solution to bullying and cyberbullying. The site operates to the highest safety standards and is the only social networking site to be endorsed by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP).

'Cyber Mentors' are volunteers, aged 11-25, who undergo training from Beatbullying and then offer real time support to their peers. To date 2,300 mentors have been trained. Central to CyberMentors is ensuring young people's voices are heard, that they have a genuine influence and can become active campaigners for their own rights.

Data.gov.uk

www.data.gov.uk

Advised by Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Professor Nigel Shadbolt and others, the Government is opening up data for reuse. The Data.gov.uk web site seeks to give a way into the wealth of Government data and is under constant development. The Government wants to work with the public to make it better, and give them opportunities to make wonderful things out of public data.

With over 3,000 datasets and growing, Data.gov.uk has become a world leader in opening up Government data. Within just a few weeks of launch, the site has inspired a number 1 downloaded iTunes app – ASBOrometer (over 800,000 downloads in two days) as well as the hundreds of other citizen produced apps on the Data.gov.uk web site.

Public Zone and Derek Wyatt – MyMp iPhone Application

Derek Wyatt MP has worked with a not-for-profit company called Public Zone to create an iPhone application called MyMp.

This app was designed to replicate the success of Derek Wyatt's web site which attracts an audience of over 600,000 unique visitors a year. It was also specifically designed to be used as a discussion forum, and provide a communication tool that the web site lacked.

Constituents who have downloaded the app have joined in discussion forums giving Derek Wyatt access to a group of constituents (aged 16-25) with whom he'd had little or no contact previously. At one point number 6 in the iTunes download chart, MyMp is the first iPhone app developed by a serving MP anywhere in the world.