

Report to COUNCIL

Civic Appreciation Nominations 2023

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader of the Council

Officer Contact: Liz Drogan, Head of Democratic Services

14th December 2022

Reason for Decision

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to the nominations of for Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousaf and Hannah Miah to receive the Civic Appreciation Award, in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community and the borough of Oldham.

Executive Summary

Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousef and Hannah Miah are being proposed for this award in recognition of their significant voluntary contribution and dedication to the local community and borough of Oldham.

Keira Arnold

After losing her father at an early age, Keira has been raising money via the Keira's Wishes fund for five years now and has raised a over £40k for Dr Kershaw's Hospice in Royton. The hospice cared for Keira's father and her sole aim has been to help patients and their families make memories.

The fund has been used for all manner of things, including buying smart-TVs for the hospices in-patient unit, funding final day trips, celebrations including early Christmas days and a wedding reception for a terminally ill patient. Keira also organised virtual markets during the pandemic as a way to continue fundraising for Dr Kershaw's.

Keira has continually been recognised here in Oldham, in Greater Manchester and nationally as a spectacular fundraiser for one of the most important charities in Oldham, and it is time a Civic Appreciation Award.

Ibrahim (Ibby) Yousaf

Ibby's fundraising efforts over the last few years have been spectacular, he has raised thousands of pounds for a variety of charities, including Oldham Foodbank, Maggie's Oldham, Mahdlo, Dr Kershaw's, UKEFF, Street Angels, Team Hill, OACT and REEL CIC. He was recognised for his outstanding charity work by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when he became the youngest person in the country to be awarded a British Empire Medal in the 2019 New Years Honours list at just 13 years old, as well as the British Citizen Youth Award in July 2019.

Ibby, his family and his supporters have used social media to great effect to highlight his campaigns and bring others along with them, often encouraging others to take part in challenges and leading to increased fundraising.

As a young man suffering with his own poor health, Ibby has become an inspiration to many in Oldham and beyond.

Hannah Miah

Hannah Miah's fundraising efforts are international, after watching a video about street children in Bangladesh Hannah was inspired to take action and attempt to make their lives better any way she could, after describing how fortunate she felt to have a family and a home.

Hannah, 10 years old, has raised over £15k for charity in just over a year, has shown that great things can be accomplished no matter what your age and that she is an inspiration to many.

In May 2022, Hannah walked 50km from Oldham to her grandfather's grave in Rawtenstall and climbed Snowdon in memory of her late grandfather and raised £8,500. Her fundraising efforts so far have helped to build two shelters for children in Bangladesh. Hannah completes many of her fundraising activities with her father, Jewel Miah, who was awarded an MBE in 2016 for voluntary services and says him and her grandfather are huge inspirations to her. She says that doing charity work and fundraising walks with her family make it more fun.

The bulk of Hannah's efforts thus far have gone to The Muslim Charity, setup to help street children in Bangladesh (the UN estimate there are over 600,000 street children in Bangladesh often abandoned or trafficked), but Hannah has also raised money for Human Aid and other charities.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousef and Hannah Miah be considered for the nomination for the Civic Appreciation Award 2023. If the Awards are approved, the Ceremony will take place prior to the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th March 2023
