

# THE YORKSHIRE ASIAN YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARDS 2022



# QED

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO  
OPPORTUNITIES SINCE 1990

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

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# Welcome to the YAYAs



## Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, Founder and CEO of QED Foundation

**W**e are thrilled to present the third Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers (YAYAs) awards on Friday, November 11, 2022, at the Cedar Court Hotel, in Bradford.

Back in 2020, when I decided to hold the first event to mark the 30th anniversary of our charity, I had no idea just how popular this celebration of youthful talent would be.

Things did not look good when our plans for a gala awards presentation were derailed by the pandemic but a live broadcast streamed on the internet enabled us to reach out to an even wider audience than we had originally envisaged.

Fortunately, last year we were able to bring some of the region's most gifted and successful young people together with an audience of hundreds, as originally planned, and 2022 sees us set to enjoy the best of both worlds. As well as the buzz and excitement of meeting face to face, there will be a live webcast for those who cannot be there in person.

QED Foundation works hard to make sure that people of all ethnic backgrounds have the same opportunities to fulfil their potential.

Whilst delivering training and employment support programmes across Yorkshire, we regularly meet young South Asians who

have succeeded at the highest level - often against the odds.

The YAYAs enable us to showcase their achievements to a wider audience and show others what is possible with determination, hard work and self-belief.

The awards are open to young people aged 16-30 born or living in the county, with a focus on those who have overcome deprivation or disadvantage or broken through traditional barriers to progress.

We hope these outstanding role models will inspire others to follow in their footsteps and seek out further and higher education opportunities.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, some of which have supported us from the outset.

They include our headline partner, York St John University, who's Vice-Chancellor will present the overall Young Achiever of the Year Award.

I am sure that you will be inspired and uplifted by the stories brought to you at this year's event.

And I hope that it encourages more young South Asians to set their sights high and achieve the same levels of success.

*Mohammed Ali*

# About QED



## Transforming lives since 1990

**Q**ED Foundation is like a chemical catalyst, changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of people for the better while remaining unaltered itself. Thirty-two years after we were founded in a terraced house in Manningham, we are still based in the city and are proud to host prestigious events like the YAYA awards here.

We have stayed true to our northern roots and our education, training, employment-related and health services support disadvantaged communities throughout Yorkshire. But they also inform our campaigning and influencing work, helping to improve the lives of millions more people across the UK.

Yet we have always moved with the times and adapted to new challenges. In the early days we focused mainly on helping people from disadvantaged communities who were struggling to find work against a background of high local unemployment levels, low educational attainment and the collapse of traditional industries. More recently, the social and health inequalities laid bare by the Covid-19 pandemic have presented very different scenarios for us to respond to.

So we now have three priorities. Firstly, under-employment is becoming as much of an issue as unemployment. Students from some ethnic minority groups backgrounds are less likely to go on to land top jobs than their white counterparts, so we encourage and support employers to make sure that their

workforces reflect local demographics at all levels of seniority.

But we also celebrate success and encourage young people to believe that they can achieve great things, even if it is against the odds. Events like the YAYAs are a great way of showcasing outstanding achievement. We know how difficult it is for young people to aim high if they cannot see others from their communities who have overcome obstacles and fulfilled their dreams. We hope the YAYAs will prove to them that where there is a will, there is a way.

Secondly, we are focusing our efforts on improving the prospects of the most disadvantaged ethnic minority groups - like Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, which often struggle to break out of a vicious circle of unemployment or dead-end jobs, poverty, substandard housing, poor health and low educational attainment.

And, finally, we are helping to build bridges between diaspora communities in Britain and their countries of origin so that we can encourage trade and collaboration between the UK and international partners like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Times have changed but our commitment to helping create a fairer and more equal society remains the same. When we began in 1990, there were just 3.5 million people from ethnic minority backgrounds in the UK. In 2019, the Office for National Statistics estimated that more than 15% of the population is not white.

The last three decades have seen these communities make ►

# About QED



## Opening opportunities to all

◀ great strides forward in all areas of public life. In 1990 all but four of our MPs were white - yet Rishi Sunak has just narrowly missed becoming Britain's first South Asian Prime Minister. Holders of high-profile ministerial appointments are from increasingly diverse backgrounds, and Sajid Javid has held two of the four great Offices of State, becoming Home Secretary in 2018 and Chancellor in 2019. Sadiq Khan has been Mayor of London since 2016.

Mishal Hussain and Faisal Islam break the news. Yasmin Alibhai-Brown and Jim Al-Khalili make us think; Romesh Ranganathan and Shazia Mirza make us laugh; and Boohoo CEO Muhmud Kamani and discount giant B&M's Arora brothers have made their fortunes. Everywhere we look, people from minority ethnic backgrounds - including British South Asians - are making their mark.

But success does not always come easy. As society becomes increasingly unequal, QED Foundation's mission to help everyone fulfil his or her potential becomes more important than ever. For us, no-one is a number. We take our time to get to know each of our service users and design a customised package of support that meets his or her individual needs. For those who are long-term unemployed, we offer much more than help with looking for vacancies, writing CVs, filling in application forms and learning and practising interview techniques.

We specialise in giving people farthest from the labour market the self-confidence to take those difficult first steps, match

trainees to suitable work placements and provide ongoing support to the companies that take them on. Inability to communicate effectively is the most difficult barrier preventing successful integration into British life for recent migrants and isolated members of settled communities alike. Our English courses help new arrivals and refugees to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills - but they are also supported to use public services and become more involved in wider society.

Our small classes are led by professional teachers in a relaxed and friendly environment. Our students receive individual Information, Advice and Guidance and visit local employers and heritage sites. We also organise guided tours in areas we operate from and seminars on the National Health Service, local government and the education and legal systems to help people settle into life in the UK.

We have particular expertise in working with South Asian women and have even pioneered pre-departure training for those waiting to join their husbands in the UK. We are now helping Afghan and Ukrainian nationals to build a new life in England. And we bring together Pakistani-led charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups from across the UK to share best practice and advocate for their communities.

We have come a long way since 1990 but our commitment to improving the lives of disadvantaged ethnic minorities is as strong as ever.

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# York St John University

are proud to be a headline partner  
and sponsor of the Overall Young  
Achiever of the Year Award

We stand for equality, ambition and social justice and we know that education has the power to create a fairer world. We celebrate diversity and take pride in our dedication to providing equal opportunities for students from all backgrounds. Our unique Opportunity and Excellence scheme helps to break down the barriers to attending university. The difference this makes is clear: 60% of our students come from backgrounds under represented in UK Higher Education.\*

\*Higher Education Policy Institute analysis 2018

[yorksja.ac.uk](http://yorksja.ac.uk)

# Our headline partner

and YOUNG ACHIEVER of the YEAR AWARD SPONSOR



## Celebrating different lives lived

**A**t York St John University, we have been changing lives through education since 1841. The importance of access to education for all individuals is something that we strive towards. We offer a variety of inspiring undergraduate and postgraduate courses, many of which include placement and study abroad opportunities. Our focus is to provide you with a personalised learning experience so that you can reach your potential. You can develop in a welcoming and supportive environment and become part of a close-knit community. Our students love the sense of community they feel on campus.

We are proud of our heritage and proud to contribute to the history of York. Our 11-acre campus is located close to the city centre and overlooks the York City Walls. Our students can easily go and explore everything York has to offer. Across the city, there are buildings that originate at various points across the past 2,000 years. We are no different. Our university campus is a place where modern buildings meet Victorian architecture.

We are proud to be inclusive and take pride in our social and culturally diverse community. We work to enrich our wider community by tackling inequality, promoting fairness, and challenging prejudice.

To support this ethos, we offer a Contextual offer scheme. The scheme considers both your academic potential, life experience and factors that might not usually contribute to

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university admission. Everybody has lived a different life and we celebrate that. This is why we have introduced the scheme. We also offer financial scholarships to further support our students.

We think it is important for people to understand how we make our offers at York St John, because our approach is a little different. The offer scheme we use was designed after listening to feedback and completing a variety of research with our current students and those who might want to join us in future. The scheme has had a positive impact on lives as 68% of our students come from underrepresented backgrounds in UK Higher Education\*.

We also demonstrate our commitment to equality through being the headline partner and proud sponsorship of the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers awards. The YAYA Awards offer an opportunity to celebrate the excellent accomplishments of all nominees. We want to recognise the achievements of our young Asian population and to inspire them to keep pushing boundaries.

(\* Based on internal data, 2022)

# A very special message

from  
**ACADEMY  
 AWARD  
 WINNER  
 RIZ AHMED**



**'They are  
 all role  
 models, all  
 brilliant  
 achievers  
 who have  
 broken  
 through  
 barriers to  
 progress...'**

**A**ctor, writer, producer, musician, and activist, Riz Ahmed has sent a personal video message to all the winners and highly commended candidates at this year's YAYAs.

Riz, who won the 2022 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film alongside director Aneil Karia for the short film *The Long Goodbye* - making him the first Muslim actor to win in this category - said he thought QED's achievement in creating the awards was "incredibly important."

"I was born in Wembley to a British Pakistani family who had moved here from Karachi in the 1970s and I was lucky enough to win a school scholarship which helped me to get to Oxford University," he said. "I eventually graduated with a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics - but I nearly dropped out because it was such an isolating atmosphere, a real culture shock.

"I hope and believe that we've moved on a great deal in the last 20 years or so but there's no doubt that background

and culture still play a big part in how successful you are in your life and career.

"Young people of South Asian heritage - and especially those of Pakistani origin - still suffer disproportionately from low educational achievement, poor home backgrounds, fewer opportunities and prejudice.

"The YAYAs is a brilliant way to help address that imbalance - by highlighting the achievements of those who succeed despite the odds being stacked against them; by holding up shining examples of achievement by young South Asians that illustrate just what can be achieved."

Ahmed, who was also nominated for an Academy Award, Golden Globe Award and SAG Award for his lead performance in Amazon Prime Video's *Sound of Metal*, said the YAYAs' short-listed candidates showed some fabulous stories of achievement.

"Whether each of them wins the main trophy or not this evening, they are all role models, all brilliant achievers who have broken through barriers to progress and advancement that many

others have been unable to surmount," he said. "I have been lucky enough to enjoy some success in my chosen career in film but I am truly humbled by what these awards winners have done."

Riz won the National Board of Review, IFP Gotham Award and Film Independent Spirit Award for Best Actor, as well as more than fourteen leading critics groups.

He was named British/Irish Actor of the Year at the London Critics' Circle 2020 Awards for his work in *Sound of Metal* and *Mogul Mowgli*.

He became one of Hollywood's most sought-after artists following the explosive success of HBO's *The Night Of* (written and created by the legendary Steven Zaillian), for which he won an Emmy Award, and was Golden Globe and SAG Award nominated.

Previously, Ahmed starred in successful feature films including Disney's *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, Jacques Audiard's *The Sisters Brothers* and Sony/Marvel's *Venom*. He first won industry attention in festival favourites *Four Lions* and *Nightcrawler*.



# Last year's overall winner

## YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR 2021 - Huma Malik

**H**uma Malik's virtual volunteering during the dark days of the Covid-19 pandemic contributed significantly to her success in last year's Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers awards.

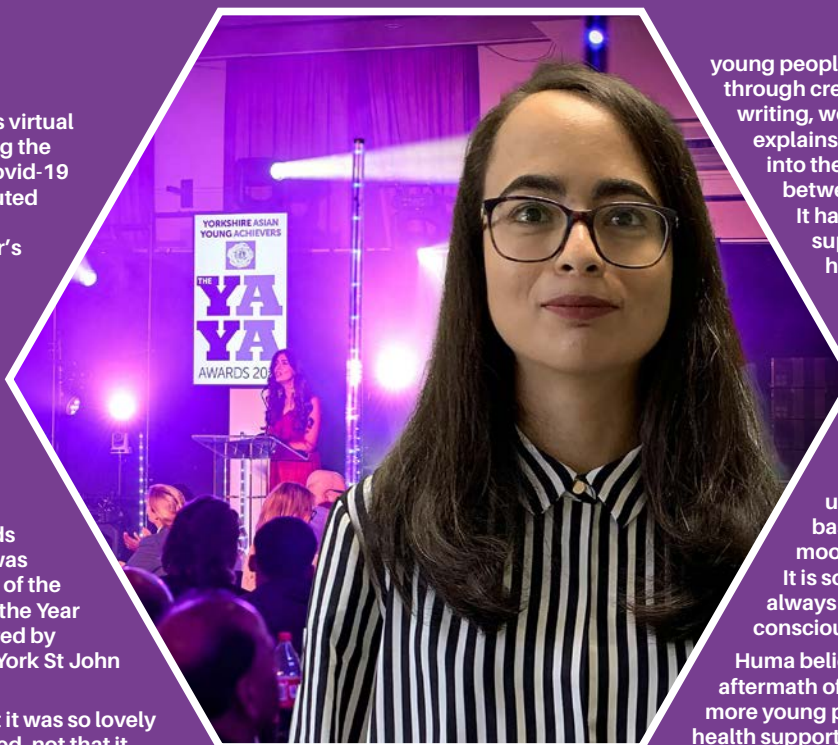
The 27-year-old, who is of Pakistani background, won the Achievement in the Public Sector category, sponsored by Leeds City Council, and was the Overall Winner of the Young Achiever of the Year 2021 title, sponsored by headline partners York St John University.

"It felt surreal - but it was so lovely to just be recognised, not that it feels like I have done anything extra special," says Huma humbly.

Despite her long-term health conditions - Huma attends regular hospital appointments for blood transfusions and treatments - she somehow finds time to volunteer and one of her roles was volunteering virtually during the pandemic with Leaders Unlocked, promoting the voice of young people in health and mental health.

Huma believes the award came at a particularly poignant time when people like her, who suffer with health issues, were still feeling vulnerable following the pandemic, despite normality having returned for many people.

"To have that little bit of recognition and, at the same time, it is supporting others, talking to them about medical conditions and the pandemic, how it can have an impact - that has been really important as well," says Huma. "It is about a society that is still getting back to normal when most of society



young people's mental health through creative tools; lyric writing, workshops," Huma explains. "Music Talkz taps into the natural synergy between mood and music. It has been my tool within supporting my mental health and, working for Barnardo's, I realised it was something young people were using," says Huma.

"It also highlights how everybody uses music on a daily basis to regulate their mood and emotions. It is something we are always using but may not be consciously aware of it."

Huma believes that, in the aftermath of the pandemic, more young people need mental health support than before, but acknowledges that it is being widely recognised: "I think young people, for the first time in a very long time, are getting that awareness with mental health. I think there is more awareness and I think the pandemic has just highlighted a lot of things for young people."

Now she is hoping, through her own achievements, she can encourage others to strive for success and overcome issues in their lives.

She says achieving the Yorkshire Asian Young Achiever Award has enabled her to profile the work she is doing, supporting others.

Since winning the award Huma has become a trustee of the Mental Health Foundation, and is making positive progress within her professional career working as an engagement officer for NHS Leeds CCG to support patient voice in service change.

She says her family, friends and work colleagues were all really proud of her award: "They were absolutely over the moon and really supportive."

is already back to normal, and it is helping to bridge that gap - being able to have a platform makes a bit of a link with others."

Huma is particularly focused on young people's mental health. Through her work with Leaders Unlocked, she became involved with the Mental Health Foundation, and was appointed a trustee of the charity in March.

She has also worked for the charity Barnardo's, delivering wellness recovery action planning groups to support young people with their mental health. She also runs the social enterprise, Music Talkz, providing workshops tackling mental health amongst young people.

Huma explains how Music Talkz developed from her own love of music and tapping into its benefits for her own mental health. Sessions are currently run online, although she says she hopes to deliver them face to face in future.

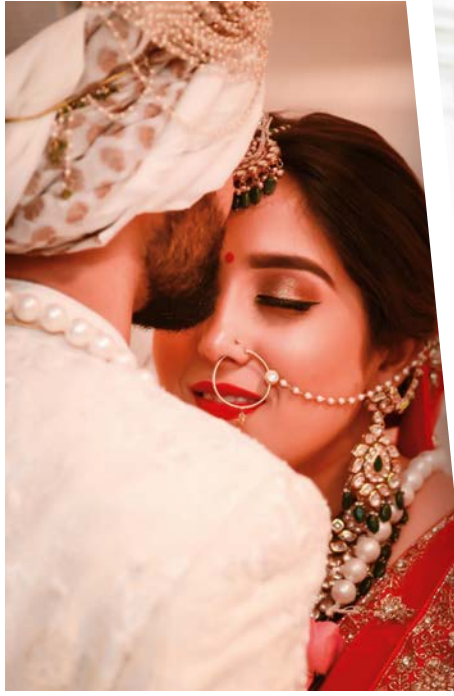
"It was set up in 2017 and it supports

**'It felt surreal - but it so was lovely just to be recognised for supporting others'**



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# Last year's winners



**SPORT**

**JASMIN AKTER**

aged 20, from Bradford



**HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH OR  
HEALTHCARE**

**YASMIN KHANAGHA**

aged 24, from Wakefield



**ARTS & CREATIVE  
INDUSTRIES**

**AQIB KHAN**

aged 28, from Bradford



**MEDIA**

**SIVAPRIYA THIRUGNANARAJAH**

aged 21, from Sheffield



**EDUCATION**

**BADR BASHARAT**

aged 23, from Bradford



**PRIVATE SECTOR**

**JAGJIT SINGH CHAGGAR**

aged 26, from Keighley



**SCHOOL OR COLLEGE**

**RUHEE DAWOOD**

aged 23, from York



**PUBLIC SECTOR**

**HUMA MALIK**

aged 27, from Bradford



**NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR**

**SAIF DIN**

aged 27, from Rotherham



**YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR**

**SABREEN AHSAN**

aged 29, from Keighley



**OVERCOMING LIFE OBSTACLES**

**SONIA HUNJAN**

aged 23, from Leeds



**YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR**

**HUMA MALIK**

aged 27, from Bradford

## WITH THE RIGHT MIX OF MINDS, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

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# Meet the Judges



**DR MOHAMMED ALI OBE**

Dr Mohammed Ali OBE is Founder and CEO of QED Foundation. He has worked in ethnic minority community development for over 35 years, in the UK and Europe. He is a social entrepreneur, pioneering and developing new ways of addressing the social and economic challenges facing ethnic minority communities.

Since setting up QED in 1990, he has served on numerous public, private and voluntary sector boards and committees, including for the NHS, the Home Office, DWP, IOD, EU, ACEVO, the University of Bradford and York St John University. He was awarded the OBE in 2001.



**ADEEBA MALIK CBE**

Adeeba Malik is the Deputy Chief Executive of QED. Born in Bradford to immigrant parents, she has been with the organisation for 28 years. Previously she was a teacher in Hull and Bradford. She has held numerous roles on various boards in Bradford, Yorkshire, and nationally, including Yorkshire Forward, Northern Ballet, and the Women and Work Commission. She is on the board of the Race Disparity Audit Advisory Group at the Cabinet Office, and a Member of the State Honours Committee and Member of Nurture Academies Trust. Adeeba received the MBE in 2004 and the CBE in 2015.



**ROBERT HICKEY**

As Chief Operating Officer of York St John University, Rob's role spans the leadership of all of the University's Corporate Professional Services including Finance, HR, Estates, IT, Marketing & Communications, Student Recruitment, and Strategy & Projects. He also drives the University's widening participation, business growth and innovation agendas. Rob joined YSJ in 2016 after senior roles at Network Rail, PwC, Deloitte and GVA. He holds degrees from Lancaster and Leeds and the LSE. He is a Chartered Surveyor and a Member of the Association of Project Management.



**PROF UDUAK ARCHIBONG MBE**

Uduak Archibong PhD MBE is Professor of Diversity at the University of Bradford, where she directs the Centre for Inclusion and Diversity and provides strategic oversight for equality and diversity across the institution. She is a Fellow of the West African College of Nursing and a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing. Her research, teaching, and knowledge transfer activities broadly cover the areas of workforce diversity, diversity competent leadership development, family-centred health care and cross-cultural negotiation of community access to health and social services.



**We are absolutely thrilled with the quality of entries from across Yorkshire. Many have overcome great obstacles to achieve what they have and it's wonderful to be able to share their stories with a wider audience and highlight their successes and achievements in such a positive way'**

**— DR MOHAMMED ALI OBE**



**JO QUINTON-TULLOCH**

Jo Quinton-Tulloch became the director of the National Science and Media Museum in 2013. Her 23 years in museums started in the Learning Team at the Science Museum. She has delivered world class galleries and exhibitions, including as part of the team that created and launched the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. Jo's focus in Bradford has been to forge new sustainable partnerships which reposition the Museum as a STEM learning centre of excellence. Jo led a major relaunch of the renamed and rebranded NSMM in 2017. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts.

# The awards event

## THE SPEAKERS



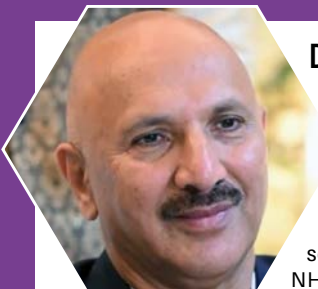
### TRACEY BRABIN, MAYOR OF WEST YORKSHIRE

Tracy Brabin is a British Labour and Co-operative politician who was elected as the first Mayor of West Yorkshire, and the first ever woman Metro Mayor in England, in May 2021. During her campaign, Tracy pledged to create 1,000 skilled jobs for young people, lead a 'Creative New Deal' for the region, bring buses back under public control, tackle the climate emergency and build 5,000 affordable and sustainable homes. As Mayor, Tracy also inherits the roles and responsibilities of the former Police and Crime Commissioner. Her priorities for policing include to recruit more frontline officers and staff and to prioritise the safety of women and girls. Prior to her election as Mayor, Tracy was the Member of Parliament for Batley and Spen from 2016 until 2021.

As MP, she held appointments as Shadow Early Years Minister, Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and Shadow Minister for Cultural Industries. Moreover, Tracy is a former member of the Women and Equalities Select Committee and a former chair of the Gaps in Support All-Party Parliamentary Group, having led the campaign on behalf of the three million people excluded from Government financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Born in Batley, Tracy was an actor and screenwriter prior to entering politics, appearing in several British soaps.

### PROFESSOR KAREN BRYAN OBE, VICE-CHANCELLOR, YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Professor Karen Bryan joined York St John University as Vice Chancellor in April 2020. She was previously Deputy V-C (Academic) at the University of Greenwich. Prior to that she was Pro Vice Chancellor for Regional Engagement and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing at Sheffield Hallam University. Professor Bryan qualified as a speech and language therapist from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and also gained her PhD there. Her research interests are in communication difficulties in young offenders and in forensic populations, also the impact of communication difficulties on access to healthcare. She is involved in the development of Registered Intermediaries working for the Ministry of Justice, and was previously a member of the Health Professions Council. Professor Bryan is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Neuropsychology at the University of Warsaw, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. She was awarded an OBE for services to higher education in 2018.



### DR MOHAMMED ALI OBE, FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, QED FOUNDATION

Dr Mohammed Ali OBE is Founder and CEO of QED Foundation. He has worked in ethnic minority community development for over 35 years, in the UK and Europe. He is a social entrepreneur, pioneering and developing new ways of addressing the social and economic challenges facing ethnic minority communities. He worked with Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, Bradford Community Relations Council, Tameside Council, Sheffield City Council and Fullempley, a London-based ethnic minority social and economic development agency, before setting up QED in 1990. He has served on numerous public, private and voluntary sector boards and committees, including for the NHS, Home Office, DWP, IOD, EU, ACEVO, Bradford University and York St John University. He is chair of the Poverty Alleviation Scholarships Foundation and the Network of Pakistani Voluntary Organisations (UK). He has won many accolades for his work including an honorary doctorate from Bradford University in 1997 and the OBE in 2001.

### KERSTEN ENGLAND CBE, CEO, CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Kersten has been Chief Executive of Bradford Council since 2015. Her main priority is to deliver sustainable and inclusive growth. Kersten chairs the Yorkshire and Humber Chief Executive's Board, the Serious and Organised Crime Strategic Partnership for West Yorkshire, the Bradford and Tower Hamlets 'Act Early' Partnership, is the lead Chief Executive for the Yorkshire Leaders Board and an advisor to the Resolution Foundation. She leads on innovation, business growth and the digital agenda within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Kersten is a trustee of the Young Foundation. She is also a member of the Council of the University of Bradford, a member of the advisory board of the Bradford Literature Festival and a lay canon of Bradford Cathedral. Kersten was made a CBE in the 2020 new year's honours list.



# The awards event

## YOUR HOST

### **NOREEN KHAN BBC RADIO AND TV PRESENTER AND STAND-UP COMEDIAN**

Noreen Khan is an award-winning radio and TV presenter.

She has been working in radio for more than 13 years and joined the BBC in 2007.

She currently presents her show on BBC Asian Network weekdays from 1-4pm.

Listening figures regularly show she has one of the most listened to Asian radio shows in the UK.

Her warm and natural presenting style has made her an instant hit with the audience and she is a highly sought after compere, hosting high-profile events up and down the country.

She's also won numerous awards for her show and presenting style, including best radio presenter, best radio show and best media personality.

Noreen has hosted numerous shows for BBC Red Button including the recent Asian Network comedy night which came live from Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

In 2016 she was part of an all-female presenter line up for a unique sports chat show called Ballsy Women. In the past



she's also presented for BBC's Midlands Today and produced/presented her own TV shows on sky channel Brit Asia TV. In 2016 she tried her hand at stand-up comedy and has since started her own all-female comedy nights. These have proved to be highly successful and resulted in a UK city tour. Noreen

is also considered to be a social media influencer due to her impressive social media following.

Noreen is also a businesswoman, in 2014 she launched her own clothing label- Noreen Khan Couture and in May 2015 she expanded her brand by launching her NK Accessories line too!

## INTERVAL ENTERTAINMENT

### **TASHA TAH, SINGER-SONGWRITER**

Tasha Tah is a successful artist in her own right and has been in the UK Asian Urban scene for the last 10 years. Tasha's debut single 'Haan De Munde' topped the charts in the UK and cemented her position as the first lady of 'urban desi.' She has amassed a core fan following around the world purely on the strength of her own inimitable drive and ambition. Today, with a solid platform established, she has numerous No.1 hits and over 100 million views on YouTube.

Industry experts have isolated the reason why Tasha has scaled such heights on her sole efforts. Her creative 'factory' is

totally in-house. She can write a hit song on a whim and create the melody and tune in an instant.

Courtesy of her modelling background, her performance wardrobe, video design and choreography all have a major input from Tasha herself.

She draws her inspiration from her Indian background, a strong musical family heritage and being in and around musical icons from a very young age.

Tasha has multilingual expertise, a varied vocal range and a surprising ability to sing for many genres appealing to a cross-range of ages and cultures.





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# ACHIEVEMENT IN SPORT

## the shortlist



**USAMA MUJTABA**

Usama Mujtaba is helping to make history as one of only a few South Asians in professional football in North America. Usama, of Bradford, is currently Head Strength and Conditioning Coach at Toronto Argonauts and is understood to be one of the youngest S&C coaches in professional football. Usama's goals are to expand the sport of American football in Canada and England. He also has a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering.



**UBAID HUSSAIN**

Gold medal winner, Ubaid Hussain, of Leeds, began combat sport - Muay Thai - at the age of eight. At 13 he represented Team GB at the World Championship in Turkey and clinched another Gold at the European Championship. Through sport, Ubaid is diverting young people off the streets to take part in gyms and youth camps. He has raised money for organisations including youth projects and food banks.



**IKRA ALI**

Last year, Ikra Ali, of Bradford, won an national Asian Women of Achievement award-in the Sports Category for her football work. Ikra, who has played the sport from a young age, is coaching young girls in playing and promoting the game. She has two football teams and is creating an environment for women from all walks of life to participate in sports and break the cultural barriers associated with women in football.

## AWARD SPONSOR

Founded in the heart of Bradford, Regal Foods is a manufacturer and distributor of a vast range of world food and confectionery products as well as producers of a large selection of mainstream confectionery - resulting in being a brand for everyone and one that everyone loves.



Regal started life from very humble beginnings, starting its journey by supplying a small selection of bakery products to grocery shops within the Bradford area.

fast forward 20+ years and Regal Foods now manufacture and supply food and drink products not only throughout the UK to over 3000 retail outlets, including all major the supermarket chains, but export to over 40 countries around the world.

Regal Foods and its products are now embraced by several supermarket chains with thousands of products hitting shelves on a weekly basis within the world food, bakery, and confectionery aisles.

With an umbrella of multiple brands, Regal Foods is proud to provide the people of Yorkshire, the UK and the world with the foods they love, both now and into the future. Regal Foods has established itself as a brand for everyone.

As well as producing a range of bakery products including cake rusk, madeira cakes, pastries, and biscuits, Regal Food Products



Group now has a portfolio of over 400 products. Ranging from sweet and savoury snacks such as Bombay Mix, crisps, and popcorn, cooking marinades and sauces, a large range of fruit juices, traditional teas, sweets, and many more food and drink products.

We are delighted to be supporting this year's Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers Awards. We wish all individuals who are shortlisted, the very best of luck - you are all shining stars!



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Proud sponsors of the Yorkshire  
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Mental Health and Healthcare

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# ACHIEVEMENT IN HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH or HEALTHCARE

## the shortlist



**BENJI CHANDRA**

Optometrist Benji Chandra works at Bradford Hospitals and York Hospitals. Benji, of Leeds, completed a first class degree in optometry and has worked at Vision Express and the Outside Clinic, York. Benji has also worked at the University of Bradford as a Clinic Supervisor. He is a junior faculty for Johnson and Johnson Vision, but his greatest contribution is his voluntary work with Vision Care, for homeless people in Leeds.



**FAIZA HUSSAIN**

Faiza Hussain, of Huddersfield, became a nurse to support her local hospital and was one of the many NHS staff whose dedication and commitment helped patients throughout the pandemic. For nearly five years Faiza has worked as an intensive care unit nurse in Huddersfield and has cared for and supported many, including older generation patients during Covid-19. Faiza set up her own social media page, Fitnurse, to improve well-being.



**ANISH MISTRY**

Junior doctor, Anish Mistry, of Bradford, set his sights on studying medicine. He is the first in his family to go to University following encouragement and support from his parents. During the pandemic, Anish worked on the Covid high dependency unit and the Covid Palliative Care Ward. The toughest part of his experience was being unable to see his family due to his father's vulnerability from having a kidney transplant.

## AWARD SPONSOR

The University of York is delighted to be supporting the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers Award for Achievement in Health, Mental Health and Healthcare. The University of York is the home of enquiring minds, inspiring teachers, pioneering researchers and committed professional services staff, all of whom are determined to make the world a better place. Our founding values of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, anchored by the highest academic standards, are as true today as they were when the University of York opened its doors.



UNIVERSITY  
*of York*

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy speaks to the core of our values and we are committed to creating a working, learning, social and living environment that will enable all our staff and students to achieve their potential, whilst they celebrate diverse cultures, knowledge and identities and are encouraged to make a positive contribution to the city, region and beyond.

We are committed to providing exceptional learning experiences that stay with our students for the rest of their lives, enabling them to flourish within and beyond their studies. Our well-established widening participation programmes provide an opportunity for learners from across the country, and particularly those from Yorkshire, to gain an insight into university study. We are continuously growing as a University community and offer a range of career development opportunities in research, teaching, professional and support



services as well as inclusive campus facilities, services and networks to support staff and students from diverse backgrounds.

We have a range of activities that engage with the wider community in which we live, work and learn, and pride ourselves on forging local partnerships within York and local counties, working particularly closely with schools, colleges and communities. Our new campaign, York Unlimited, highlights our mission to improve lives, drawing together our global community of staff, students, alumni and the people and businesses of our city. The campaign supports the delivery of projects that enable brilliant minds to break barriers, overcome limitations and think differently to solve the challenges of the world today. With six priority areas, it is important that these include 'enabling every student to shine' and 'transforming mental health'.

This provides a sense as to why the University of York is so delighted to work with the QED Foundation, to support the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers Award and sponsor the Award for Achievement in Health, Mental Health and Healthcare.

# SCIENCE+ MEDIA MUSEUM



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BROADCAST 100

# ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

## the shortlist



**AWAIS HUSSAIN**

After being awarded a scholarship by the Aziz Foundation, Awais, of Bradford, is furthering his Linguistics studies. His heritage language, Pahari-Pothwari, is the most widely spoken language of UK Asians. Awais' motivation is to preserve the community language. His passion for documenting dialects led him to create the Mirpur and Dadyal Heritage Society, which is now a charitable organisation.



**MARIAM RASHID**

Mariam Rashid, from Bradford, worked with Common Wealth Theatre to produce a show about female Muslim Boxers. She also created a tactile version of the Particle Zoo, a teaching tool to communicate Particle Physics to children. Using fabric and textiles art, Mariam created an exhibition focusing on fast fashion and sustainability and used her creative skills to change the way people think about their clothing.



**MARIYAH KAYAT**

Mariyah Kayat, of Bradford, is creating opportunities for women to be themselves. Mariyah leads Speakers Corner, a creative social space for young women aged 13 to 21. Mariyah has also launched initiatives including Speakers in Schools (for young women) and Swim with Speakers. She is starting a counselling course to support her ambitions for Speakers Corner to be a recognised mental health service.

## AWARD SPONSOR

The National Science and Media Museum, in the heart of Bradford, is a place to explore the science and culture of image and sound technologies and their impact on our lives.

With internationally significant collections in the fields of photography, film, television and sound, the museum's talented team of curators and explainers create galleries, exhibitions and events that fuel the imagination and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and artistic creators. And Pictureville cinema, which includes the region's biggest IMAX screen, showcases the magic of moving images from around the world in Bradford, the first UNESCO City of Film.

A visit to the museum will delight and surprise: Wonderlab is a fully interactive gallery which explores the scientific principles of light and sound, and recent temporary exhibitions have included Top Secret: From Ciphers to Cybersecurity, focusing on the ingenuity of secret communications, and 4,000 Miles From Home, a display of photographs by Akbal Singh Kang, documenting his family and community in Bradford throughout the 1960s.

This year the exhibition programme is also charting the history of broadcasting in Britain, with Switched On (until January 2023), which is part of Broadcast 100 - a celebration of 100 years of the

**SCIENCE+**  
**MEDIA**  
**MUSEUM**



BBC and 40 years of Channel 4. From the first radio microphones to colour TV, on-demand video and streaming, Switched On explores how and why the world of broadcasting has changed over the decades. As well as charting the development of new technologies and telling the stories of trailblazers from DJ Lepke to David Attenborough, the show gives a glimpse into the future, with a playful interactive space.

We are delighted to be supporting the YAYA award for Achievement in Arts and Creative Industries for two key reasons. Firstly, we want to ensure our region's creativity and culture is reflected and celebrated in the work we do - whether it is through exhibitions, making connections between our collection and people's personal stories, or in this case sponsoring an award celebrating excellence. Secondly, we are committed to inspiring, supporting and encouraging young people with opportunities in the cultural sector. It is essential for the future of our creative industries that we nurture the thriving talent that exists in Yorkshire.



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**LOCALiQ** 

# ACHIEVEMENT IN THE MEDIA

## the shortlist



**YUSEF ALAM**

Yusef Alam, of Bradford, has spent the past three years working as a reporter for the Telegraph & Argus. Through his work, Yusef has been able to share the stories of refugees and also covered stories and given a voice to people in Kurdish and Roma communities. Yusef is keen to promote good news stories from communities. He previously worked at the café in the National Science and Media Museum.



**ARIF AHMED**

Sports reporter and presenter for ITV Yorkshire, Arif, of Leeds, has covered many high profile stories, including the journey with MND of former professional rugby league player, Rob Burrow MBE, rugby player, Mose Masoe taking his first steps unaided following a serious spinal injury and the sale of Hull City Football Club. Interestingly, Arif, whose parents were shopkeepers in Scotland, was a pastry maker before setting his sights on journalism.



**PISHDAAD CHAHARDEHI**

Creating videos for Bradford's Bid to become the UK City of Culture 2025 is among Pishdaad Modaressi Chahardehi's many skills. Pishdaad, of Bradford, has also highlighted community and charity work through his video making and he even brought Italian Grime to the city through his music video work. He has also used his skills to educate and mentor young people who are interested in creating their own video production companies.

## AWARD SPONSOR

LOCALiQ is one of the UK's fastest-growing digital marketing agencies. We combine our best-in-class marketing technology, the data insights this provides, with our huge audience reach. We can help our customers grow and take their business to the next level.



But what truly sets us apart is we know the local marketplace better than most as we have trusted local media brands already in the local area, including the Telegraph & Argus, in Bradford, The Press, in York, the Craven Herald, Ilkley Gazette and Keighley News, that provide an unparalleled route to market. With local offices in both York and Bradford we are local to you too.

Plus, as part of Newsquest Media Group, the UK's leading local publisher, LOCALiQ gives you access to a network of 200+ news brands and publications, both in print and online, an award-winning events division, recruitment platforms and a wide range of multimedia marketing solutions. We know we have something right here for you.

We are also premier partners with the likes of Google, Bing and Facebook, to ensure we have direct access into these marketing platforms and the support to help your business grow.

Generating leads and return on investment on search engines is no easy feat. Put your trust (and investment) in a team who knows

search engines, inside and out. Plus, with Facebook, which is so much more than a social media site, you benefit from our smart technology that works to manage your programs and get you leads more effectively.

Whether you are starting out and need a website, through to a business looking to grow year on year, build a brand or look to generate leads and enquiries, our solutions are best in class and come with your own performance dashboard so you can track how we do too.

LOCALiQ brings integrity, trust and expertise to digital along with the credibility of the trusted media brands and solutions that deliver results you can really measure. Get in touch to find out how we can help your business grow on 01274 705390.



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<b>British Citizenship</b>	LanguageCert IESOL SELT B1	Speaking & Listening
<b>Work visa</b>	LanguageCert IESOL SELT B1	Listening, Reading, Writing & Speaking
<b>Student visa</b>	LanguageCert IESOL SELT B1/B2	Listening, Reading, Writing & Speaking

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## ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION

### the shortlist



**AMINAH AHMED**

Aminah Ahmed, of Bradford, is currently supporting international students through her role as a Student Engagement Assistant at the University of Leeds. Aminah became a Dying To Talk representative with the University of Bradford and project ambassador on Above The Noise with University of Leeds and the National Science and Media Museum. Aminah also became managing editor for Leeds Human Rights Journal.



**IQRAH ALI**

Married at 17 and a mum-of-two, Iqrah Ali, juggled education and family life to achieve her dream of becoming a pharmacist. Iqrah, of Bradford, completed a five year pharmacy course and was due to sit her final pre-registration exam. Iqrah's determination and commitment to pursue her studies not only enabled her to achieve her ambition, it has also given her the opportunity to make a difference and to help others.



**IESA SABIR**

Losing his mum suddenly at the age of nine had a profound impact on Iesa Sabir. Expelled from two schools at 15, Iesa, of Bradford, went to a Pupil Referral Unit. Realising the negative impact of his behaviour on his education, Iesa was determined to pursue his studies. He undertook a sports course, equivalent to three A-levels, and is currently working as a Behaviour Support Worker in a school.

### AWARD SPONSOR

## Language Cert

LanguageCert, an innovative Ofqual recognised Awarding Organisation, is committed to developing and delivering high-quality, internationally recognised language exams that enhance the career, education and life opportunities of individuals worldwide.

LanguageCert assesses English, Spanish, & Classical Greek language skills using CEFR-aligned testing criteria through a variety of test methods and are the same accredited exams whether taken Online with remote, live proctoring, or at a test centre using our computer or paper-based methods.

LanguageCert is also approved by the UK Home Office to deliver reliable and high-quality SELT exams for academic, professional, and UK Visa & Immigration purposes.

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evidence of English language proficiency.

As part of the PeopleCert group, we have delivered over 5,000,000 exams to date in over 200 countries and are pioneers in Online (live) proctored exams, any place, any time, first launched in 2013.



# Morrisons

## Proud sponsors of the YAYA Awards



## ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

### the shortlist



**HABIB KARIMI**

Habib Karimi, of Bradford, arrived from Afghanistan in 2006 and couldn't speak English. Starting work at 17, Habib studied and saved to pass his driving test at 18. After graduating with a BA and MSC he struggled to get a professional job but attended many workshops and became a customer adviser at Santander. He also worked for YBS Group and is now an Associate Investment Manager with Business Enterprise Fund.



**SARAH ASGHAR ILEYAS**

The greatest challenge Sarah Asghar Ileyas, of Wakefield, says she has had to overcome is being part of the LGBTQ Community. Completing her law degree, Sarah found work in her current company where she is purchasing administration manager. She has spent the past two years studying part-time for her Masters in Law. Despite the difficulties she has faced, Sarah continues to work hard and hopes to progress in her career.



**MAIHVISH IQBAL**

Shortlisted in 2022 for 'Skin Specialist of the Year' by the British Hair and Beauty Awards, Maihvish, of Bradford, established AestheticsbyM at a challenging time. The business launched at the beginning of lockdown, but Maihvish's success is testimony to the clients she has coming from all over the country for treatments. Maihvish also manages to combine running her business with studying for her Masters in Pharmacy.

## AWARD SPONSOR

Headquartered in Bradford since 1899, Morrisons is a British food retailer with around 100,000 colleagues in 497 stores serving millions of customers every week.



As a proud Yorkshire business we're delighted to be supporting the YAYAs and specifically the Achievement in Private Sector award.

We recognise the important role the private sector plays in this region, creating jobs and opportunities for young people and think it's important for us to back an award which champions the success of people at the start of their careers.

The finalists have made great achievements in their chosen roles and been dedicated in pursuit of their goals and we wish them all the best.

The skills and dedication of our own colleagues makes Morrisons. Foodmakers and shopkeepers at heart, we have over 9,000 trained butchers, bakers, fishmongers, cheesemongers and other skilled in-store specialists making more and more food in our stores.

We have our own sites making meat, fruit & veg, fish, bakery and fresh food products - 20 in all - and are unique in preparing and making more than half of the fresh food sold in our stores.

Morrisons is becoming even more competitive by cutting prices



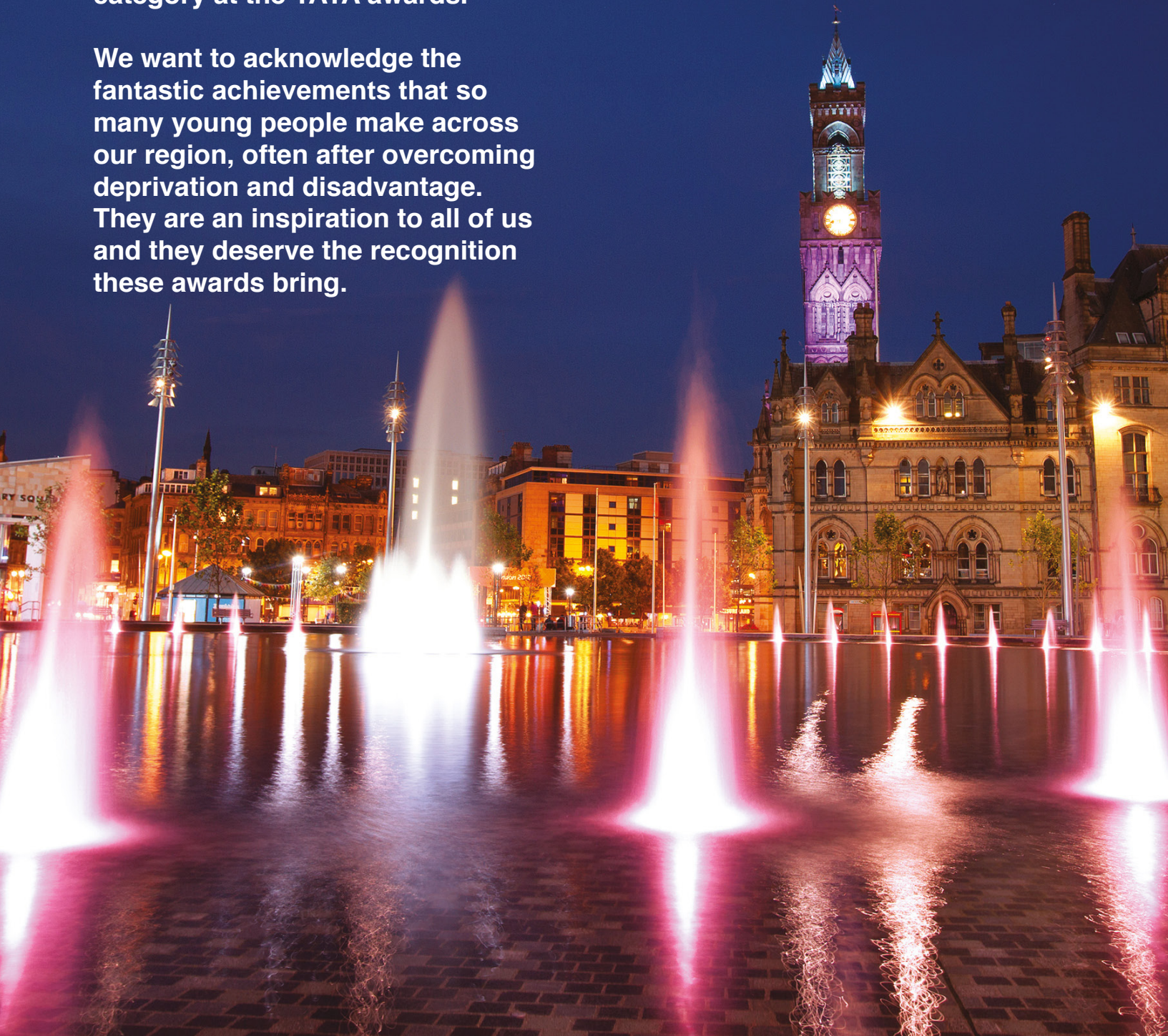
on groceries and continuing to offer great value on good quality products. We tailor the offer of each one of our stores to local tastes and demographics.

We also offer popular services including cafés, pharmacies, dry cleaners and over 300 petrol stations with further services being added all the time.

# Bradford is a vibrant, dynamic and diverse district...

...and the youngest city in the UK.  
We're proud to be sponsoring the  
Achievement in School or College  
category at the YAYA awards.

We want to acknowledge the  
fantastic achievements that so  
many young people make across  
our region, often after overcoming  
deprivation and disadvantage.  
They are an inspiration to all of us  
and they deserve the recognition  
these awards bring.



City of  
**BRADFORD**  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ACHIEVEMENT IN SCHOOL or COLLEGE

### the shortlist



**ZAIN HUSSAIN**

Bradford's Zain Hussain has weekly treatment for Mucopolysaccharidosis, type one Hurler-scheie Syndrome. Despite spending a significant amount of time in hospital, he has maintained excellent school attendance, is dedicated and committed to learning, organising his treatment plan around his education. He is a kind, hard working and professional and, he is determined not to let his health issues limit his activities.



**JAWAIRIYA KHAN**

Despite the challenges of health issues and a financially disadvantaged childhood, Jawairiya was determined to achieve her ambition to become a midwife. Jawairiya, of Bradford, worked hard and achieved eight GCSEs Grade A-C, enabling her to pursue her studies at college. She is currently a student midwife at the University of Leeds. Jawairiya's aim is to improve the lives of young women and help them to overcome barriers.



**HUNNIYA AKRAM**

Hunniya Akram, of Bradford, has already contributed to the medical world creating and running an Instagram account gathering information from young people regarding mental health as part of a research paper from Leeds Beckett University. She also worked on a study on Lego therapy and autism and has supported research as a Young Dynamo for the NHS. Hunniya attends Dixons Allerton Academy and is keen to study medicine.

## AWARD SPONSOR

We are proud to be sponsoring the Achievement in School or College category at the YAYA awards. They give much deserved recognition to the many incredible young people who attend schools

or college and who are making outstanding efforts every day throughout the year. They are an inspiration to all of us, and these awards go some way to showing our appreciation for these young people and just how much they are valued by their school, college and communities.

Bradford is a vibrant, dynamic and diverse district. We have a rich history and a bright future: over half a million people live here and we have roots all over the world. We are a big economy with globally successful businesses. We are the youngest city in the UK, we have a growing population, and we're ambitious for our young people. We want all our young people to be able to add to our skilled and enterprising workforce, sharing in inclusive growth and creating prosperity and opportunity for all. So the YAYA awards, with their special focus on promoting socially-mobile young achievers who have overcome deprivation and disadvantage, or have broken through traditional barriers to progress, is something that we really support.

This is a challenging time for education in our district. Our children and young people have had to endure huge disruption due to COVID but have shown tremendous determination and resilience to continue their studies throughout the pandemic. We



are determined to do all we can to support them through it. Our Opportunity Area status continues to provide funding that enables schools to boost the life chances of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We want to congratulate everyone who has supported the awards and those who have been nominated. We all need to acknowledge the fantastic work that many young people do, not just those who have been nominated, on their journey to achievement. They are all winners, and the YAYA Awards help us celebrate this.

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Home Office

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# ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

## the shortlist



**THANIM ADIL HUSSAIN**

Through his role as a Games design lecturer at Keighley College, Thanim Adil Hussain, is keen to encourage South Asian students to pursue a career in games design and the games industry. Thanim, of Bradford, acts as a role model, encouraging students to achieve their GCSEs. Interestingly, before becoming a lecturer, Thanim was a Supporting Lodging Worker helping refugees from countries such as Sudan and Egypt with IT.



**MEHR AHMAR**

Police officer, Mehr Ahmar, was an introvert growing up. She learned how to speak up to help others. Initially Mehr, of Bradford, wanted to be a social worker but knowing how much the police can help the community inspired her to change her career direction and pursue a profession as a police officer. Her determination should inspire others to succeed. Mehr is also a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.



**ZAHIDA SULTAN**

Zahida Sultan, of Bradford, is believed to be the only female Asian hijabi train conductor for Northern Trains. Working in what was traditionally a predominantly male-dominated industry, Zahida has demonstrated how Muslim Asian women can excel in any role they choose and have the same opportunities as anybody else. She is an inspiration to all Asian Muslim women to have confidence in themselves and strive for their goals.

## AWARD SPONSOR

The Home Office plays a fundamental role in the security and economic prosperity of the UK. It is the lead government department for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, fire, counter-terrorism and policing.



The Home Office has had a long and fascinating history since its creation in 1782. These days, we are committed to realising our vision for a safe, fair and prosperous UK. We will restore confidence in the criminal justice system and protect homeland security. We will attract talent and advance Britain's place in the world. We will work tirelessly, in open engagement and collaboration with the public and our partners across government and beyond.

We are also working tirelessly to change our organisation. The Windrush Lessons Learned Review continues to act as a catalyst for deep and genuine change across the Home Office. We are working hard to support those affected by the Windrush scandal and transform the culture within the department. Our work and our relationships will be underpinned by our values: being respectful, compassionate, courageous and collaborative.

People from Black, Asian and Other Ethnic Groups still face discrimination and disadvantage. We want our people to fulfil their potential at work regardless of their ethnicity. The Home Office is committed to creating diverse and inclusive working environments, fully recognising the benefit it brings to everyone.



We celebrate and encourage difference.

Building on these foundations, we are working hard to make the Home Office an organisation which is trusted by the public, where every one of our people can fulfil their potential, and where all of us can be proud, not just of the work we do, but also of the organisation to which we belong.

Our main offices are in London, but we have staff based all over the UK. We are supported by a number of agencies and public bodies including Border Force, HM Passport Office, Immigration Enforcement and UK Visas and Immigration.



# if

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Some children face the toughest start in life, facing experiences that can leave them losing hope and trust in the world.

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**Change a childhood. Change a life.**

**Believe in  
children**  
 **Barnardo's**



# ACHIEVEMENT IN THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

## the shortlist



**EKANSH KAPOOR**

Ekansh Kapoor, of York, is the vice president of the Graduate Students Association at the University of York. He ran a campaign to waive off continuation fees of research students, impacting on 1,000 PHD students, and has been lobbying library services to create family study space. He developed three Academic Representative Forums and lobbied to extend the length of time staff have to return feedback on assessments.



**ARQAM AL-HADEED**

Multi-national, international award-winning speaker and youth leader, Arqam Al-Hadeed, of Leeds, is an elected youth MP representing over 180,000 young people in the House of Commons where he spoke passionately to end knife crime. His efforts promoting human rights were awarded by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He established the Grand Muslim Youth Council (in partnership with Leeds Grand Mosque) for young people.



**SAHAR IJAZ**

Volunteering her time to help Asian women keep fit through the weekly running group Together We Are Runners, Sahar Ijaz, of Bradford, is keen to encourage women and young people to engage in physical activity. Her commitment was recently recognised by Run Together, a running platform led by England Athletics. Sahar also manages Together We Are Litter Pickers, a volunteer group who are helping to clean up their neighbourhood.

## AWARD SPONSOR

Over 156 years ago our founder, Thomas Barnardo, promised to support children in need of help - regardless of their background or circumstances.



**Believe in children**  
**Barnardo's**

Today we continue to keep that promise. Last year we supported over 380,000 children, young people, parents, and carers across Barnardo's 800 services and partnerships. We change children's lives and the system around them, for the better.

That's why we're proud to be supporting the Yorkshire Young Asian Awards again tonight. These awards recognise the efforts of young people who have broken through barriers and gone on to thrive.

Barnardo's runs services across Yorkshire, supporting hundreds of children and young people in the region who are experiencing challenges at home and at school. This includes families who are caring for a child with autism and have Urdu as their first language.

In Bradford alone, we deliver 11 different services, providing one to one support, advice and help to young people at risk of exploitation, families living in poverty, and children struggling with mental health problems and special educational needs and disabilities. We're also there for young people across Yorkshire more broadly, teaching key life skills and supporting them to access training, education and employment - and helping to



reduce offending and anti-social behaviour.

Across the UK, children continue to face complex challenges, including a growing crisis in children's mental health, rising numbers going into the care system, and increasing risks online. 156 years since we began, our work is more vital than ever.

Our ambitious Strategy is focused on achieving better outcomes for more children, through stronger families, safer childhoods and positive futures. With the dedication and expertise of our colleagues, volunteers and our partners in government, business, and philanthropy, we will continue to bring care, love and hope to the children who need us most.

# mylahore

BRITISH ASIAN KITCHEN

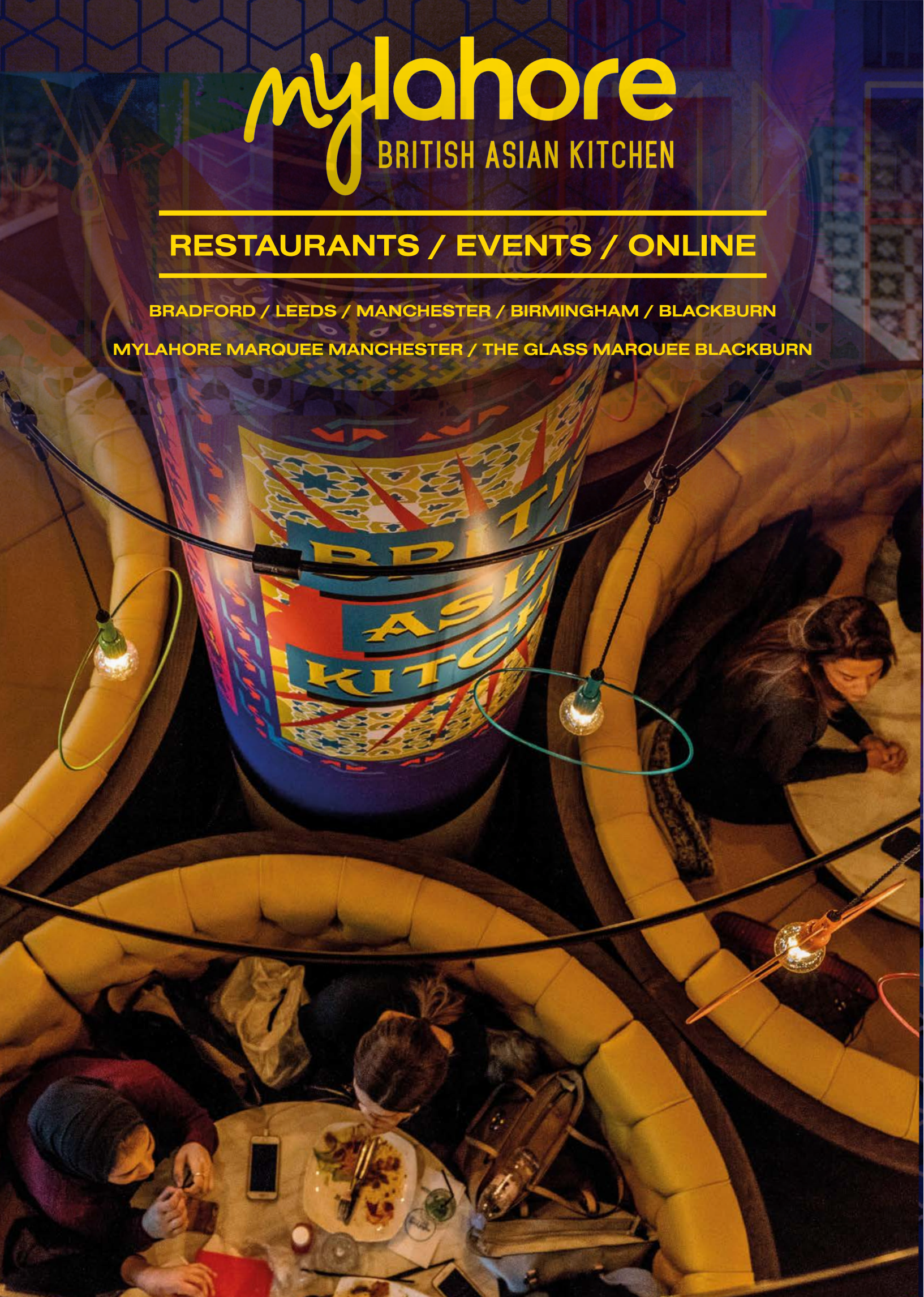
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MYLAHORE MARQUEE MANCHESTER / THE GLASS MARQUEE BLACKBURN



# ACHIEVEMENT AS A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

## the shortlist



**HASEEB HUSSAIN**

Creating colourful and elegant balloon sculptures has led Haseeb Hussain to run his own balloon academy. For Haseeb, of Bradford, the creation of the company began at a young age - the young entrepreneur was 13 when he began bringing balloon décor to birthday parties. Haseeb says his brother, who he lost at a young age, is his inspiration. He set up his academy to get young people off the streets.



**BILAL AKHTAR**

Bradford's Bilal Akhtar, 29, opened his burger place during Covid despite many challenges. It now employs 8 young people. He has worked since 15, including in banking, and achieved a 2:1 Degree in Physical Education. In 2019, Bilal was jailed for driving dangerously and, determined to change his life, set up Bvrgry. He has raised money for charity and is keen to be a role model for young Asian boys helping them to leave lives of crime.



**YEASIN MOHAMMED**

Owner of the Sizzling Lounge restaurant, in Bingley, Yeasin Mohammed, of Bradford, was born in Burma/Myanmar. After staying in a Bangladeshi refugee camp, he came to England in 2010 as a refugee asylum seeker through United Nations. Undeterred, despite his lack of English, Yeasin succeeded. Aged 24, he owns a 100-seater restaurant in Bingley. He is an award-winning bodybuilder and also cares for his mum.

## AWARD SPONSOR

We're thrilled to be supporting the YAYA Awards and celebrating our fantastic young people once again. Heartfelt congratulations from all of us at MyLahore to nominees, winners and all involved - we're all about developing people and championing positive impact in our communities. Feel free to read on to find out a little more about us...



Founded in 2002, MyLahore is an iconic and award-winning restaurant and catering group. We love welcoming guests at our restaurants in Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and London Barking. We also do wedding, corporate and charity events/catering at the MyLahore Marquee Manchester, and at many other venues across the UK. Plus, there's an exciting online chilled range of Celebration Cakes and Dessert Boxes, at-home Sharing Boxes, and a ready-to-grill Uncooked Range, all available for in-store collection and a limited selection for UK mainland delivery.

MyLahore is rooted in Yorkshire in a world of small kitchens yet huge hearts, where families tuck into everything from samosas to shepherd's pie, and karahis to cornflake tarts. It's a very British Asian story that just had to be shared!

We love to bring people together around great food and vibrant,



fulfilling experiences. We're inspired to build on the pioneering migrant spirit of those that journeyed before us, and pass on something positive to those that come after us.

Our menu is famously diverse, with something for everyone, and we just love offering up tastes of adventure as well as culinary strolls down memory lane. So in a hectic world, why not slow down and savour the moment with us, as we bring you flavours from a very colourful journey...

MyLahore.co.uk



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# ACHIEVEMENT IN OVERCOMING LIFE OBSTACLES

## the shortlist



**MUHAMMAD WAQAR AHMED**

Muhammad Waqar Ahmed joined Bradford Council on placement as a volunteer, and now has a paid position providing IT technical support at Leeds University. Muhammad, of Bradford, overcame his shyness to tackle prejudice and discrimination. His disability, in terms of his height and growth, has posed challenges, along with the loss of his mum, for whom he was the main carer before her death in 2016.



**NEIL BHARAT PATEL**

Software developer Neil was determined to succeed, despite his disability. Neil, of Leicester, who works at Next Ltd, has Cerebral Palsy and is a wheelchair user. Yet, despite his health issues, he has overcome the challenges he faced graduating with a First Class Honours degree in Computer Science from the University of Bradford. Neil was also awarded the 'Outstanding Achievement Award' for his project.



**ZEESHAN HUSSAIN**

With an aggressive form of multiple sclerosis, Zeeshan's university experience was impacted by this challenging and potentially debilitating condition, and by the pandemic. Online learning enabled the Pudsey student to manage his symptoms around studying and he graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering First Class (Hons) Degree at University of Bradford. He was determined to achieve despite the difficulties he faced.

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