

YOUNG STAR HONOURED BY HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES *Inspirational Preston youngster crowned winner in royal award ceremony*

- **Inspirational Danielle Fisher, 23, crowned winner of the HSBC breakthrough award at royal awards ceremony**
 - **Brighton's Tia Riddle named runner up**

Danielle, from Preston has faced homelessness, leading to depression and attempted suicide. Fast forward to today and Danielle has turned her life around to receive the award, which recognises the progress of young people who have developed new skills to enable them to make positive steps in facing challenges and stabilising their lives.

HRH The Prince of Wales was joined by a host of celebrities including Jools Holland, Luke Evans and Laura Whitmore at **The Prince's Trust & Samsung Celebrate Success Awards**, which recognise young people who have overcome issues such as abuse, drug addiction, homelessness and depression.

Danielle's incredible achievements mean that she was one of just three people from across the UK to be chosen as a finalist. Life for Danielle, 23, from Preston, looked bleak. Angry and upset about events in her past, with no family around to support her, she turned to drink and was prescribed a high dose of anti-depressants and sleeping tablets, which made things worse and she tried to end her life several times.

Danielle said: "Things got so bad at one point that I ended up sleeping rough. I remember going to sleep just hoping I would wake up in the morning. Life was going nowhere, and I didn't see the point in it anymore."

Danielle was given emergency housing and it was her Housing Association that then referred her to a Prince's Trust Team programme delivered with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. The 12-week personal development programme is designed to help unemployed young people gain the skills and confidence to find work.

Danielle found the confidence and motivation she had always wanted and grew passionate about helping others. She applied to volunteer in India with the Volunteer Services Overseas, fundraising the £800 she needed to cover the cost of the trip, completely on her own.

Danielle has stopped drinking, no longer needs anti-depressants, and now works full-time in a residential children's home looking after children with autism and special educational needs, which she really enjoys.

Danielle said: "The Prince's Trust made me into a better person. I can honestly say it's helped me to achieve and change my life."

Tia Riddle, 20 from Brighton was named runner up at the ceremony. After suffering from drug addiction leading to an overdose, Tia turned her life around and is now working towards a career helping other young people turn their lives around.

President of The Prince's Trust, HRH The Prince of Wales paid tribute to the thousands of Prince's Trust volunteers and staff who help to change 58,000 young lives each year.

Addressing the audience, The Prince of Wales said: "Nothing could give me greater pleasure, encouragement and reward than seeing the difference that can be made to young people's lives and opportunities."

Francesca McDonagh, Head of Retail Bank and Wealth Management UK at HSBC who presented Danielle with her award says: "We are extremely proud to congratulate Danielle on winning the HSBC Breakthrough Award. Danielle has worked incredibly hard to get where she is today and is a real example to other young people. We wish her the very best for the future."

You can watch a video of Danielle's story [here](#).

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