

YCT's 5th Annual Lecture was held on Monday 26th February 2018

YCT's 5th Annual Lecture was held on Monday 26th February 2018 at the University Centre, Harlow. The evening was opened by Neil Frost (the Chair of Trustees) who introduced this year's lecture speaker, Sarah Simpkin, Sir John Kemp-Welch, the husband of YCT's former Patron Lady Diana and YCT's patron Joe Thomas.



Sarah (pictured above) then delivered her lecture entitled 'Child Sexual Exploitation – A trauma-based response' which provided a deeper understanding of the components that make up child sexual exploitation, namely grooming and consent. Sarah discussed some of the challenges faced by practitioners working with young people who are exploited and offered a resolution through a 'trauma-based response'. Sarah then went through how such trauma can impact on engagement and responses, to both professionals and the perpetrators, which provided a better empathic understanding when working with them, and also highlighted that there is no quick fix.

(Pictured left to right – Sir John Kemp-Welch, Jamie Bryant-Woodard, Kaley-Ray Till and Joe Thomas)

For the fourth year running the Annual Lecture was followed by the presentation of the Lady Diana Kemp-Welch Awards. These awards are in memory of Lady Diana Kemp-Welch, YCT's former Patron, and this year were given to four exceptional children and young people who, after receiving the support of YCT, went on to make significant progress and improvement in their lives. They are Nathen Lilly, Jamie Bryant-Woodard, Kaley-Ray Till and Lewis Brooker. Sir John Kemp-Welch presented certificates to those who were able to attend as pictured above.



YCT's current Patron, actor Joe Thomas, thoroughly enjoyed chatting to the award recipients and their guests, along with YCT therapists and other external professionals in attendance. The evening finished with Neil Frost thanking all the contributors and inviting people to stay for refreshments and an opportunity to network.

Overall it was a very enjoyable evening, thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a successful event.