

# YOUR LETTERS

## Spotlight on the young campaigners

**M**Y name is Ben Shephard and I am a presenter on GMTV and The Xtra Factor. I am writing to you to ask for your readers' help in the search to find young people in Bournemouth who have done something positive for their school or community. These teenagers deserve to be recognised, encouraged and rewarded for the valuable work they do to make their schools and communities better places, and by entering the Deutsche Bank Spotlight Awards young people in Bournemouth will be making the headlines for all the right reasons. With up to five £1,000 prizes for the winners and Certificates of Recognition awarded to all

nominees, this initiative really does celebrate the positive. Open to 11- to 18-year-olds, the scheme has nothing to do with academic achievement or exam grades but everything to do with good citizenship and positive action. Last year's awards involved more than 2,500 young people across the UK and covered topics as diverse as a campaign to create a smoke and alcohol free café for young people and a clever text campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour in a shopping centre. As part of the Spotlight judging panel for the past four years, I have been really impressed by the variety of projects and the sheer energy young people have invested in their

campaigns. Who knows, this could be the beginning of a lifetime of campaigning work that could see them making a very real difference to the whole of society. I really hope that friends, family and teachers will nominate young campaigners and that young people themselves will come forward to be a part of this unique and worthwhile initiative. Nominations are open now until February 2. For more details on the awards and full details of how to enter, visit [commonpurpose.org.uk/spotlight](http://commonpurpose.org.uk/spotlight) or call Tracy Thurgar on 020 7608 8148. **BEN SHEPHARD, on behalf of Deutsche Bank Spotlight Awards**



REQUEST: Ben Shephard

*a Psychological manipulation of young people to brain wash them in favour of EU?*