

Kent Learning Disability

Partnership Awards

2015

Winners'
Special



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Newsletter

Winners' Special

Kent County Council has announced the winners of the 2015 Learning Disability Partnership Awards, which were held to celebrate unsung heroes who are making a difference to others.

More than 120 nominations were received for people, businesses and services and the panel of judges were impressed by those who are going the extra mile to support and improve the lives of people with learning disabilities.

This year we joined with our partners in Public Health to create a new category called Helping people stay healthy, which took the number of categories to six.

The worthy winners of the six categories attended a ceremony on the 13th October 2015 at County Hall to receive their awards from KCC leader Paul Carter, the Joint Chair of the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board, Sam Holman and the Shadow Joint Chair of the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board, Daniel Hewitt.



Employer of people with a learning disability award



Paul Coulson, Neil Smith, Sam Holman and Paul Carter

Winners: Paul Coulson and Neil Smith

Paul and Neil are Managers from Serco, working at the Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Hospital in Margate.

The judges were impressed with this nomination as it spoke of the tireless support of young people with a disability in the work environment. Paul and Neil's team have set up a number of different initiatives, including Assisted Apprenticeships and internships. From senior management to front line staff, this team has consistently shown themselves to be highly proactive in working with, and promoting people with disabilities in the work place.



Citizenship award



Volunteers from the Beyond Words Reading Champions with Sam Holman and Paul Carter

Winner: Beyond Words Reading Champions

The Champions are a group of 14 volunteers who hold their meetings in Kent Libraries and have been working on a County wide project to help people build confidence in their reading skills.

The group covers a broad range of topics and help to share information and knowledge for people with a learning disability in a way that all can understand and participate in. Meetings are held in an interactive and relaxed way so that all can be involved.

In working with other agencies, the group has been able to work at a national level to raised awareness of issues faced by people with learning disabilities.



Supported housing award



**Lorna O'Shea, Paul Carter and
Sam Holman**

Winner: Lorna O'Shea

Lorna is the Director of Accommodation - Yes in Maidstone

Lorna has provided accommodation for people with learning disabilities for 25 years and to her, the job goes way above just accommodation needs.

Lorna is on call 24 hours a day and seeks involvement from her tenants regarding the running of the property, allowing them control over their lives



Supporting people with a learning disability award



Steve Perry, Sam Holman and Paul Carter

There are two winners

Winner: Steve Perry

Steve is the Project Lead for Music and Arts for the Skillnet Group.

Steve has worked to develop and run music, arts and media courses that have enabled many adults with a learning disability develop their technical, social and academic skills. He has also been instrumental in establishing the regular Sunday morning radio show “The Audiobox” on Dover Community Radio. The programme is planned, produced, directed and presented by people with learning disabilities. This is one of the many projects that Steve has been involved in, others include:

- An exhibition at the Beaney Centre to show changes needed to make people’s live better
- Drumming workshops co-produced in schools
- Music and media projects
- Arranges performances with the musical group Silent Shout



Supporting people with a learning disability award



Members of East Kent Mencap with Paul Carter and Sam Holman

Winner: East Kent Mencap

This organisation received a number of nominations for members of staff and teams within the group.

The aim of the organisation is to provide opportunities and choices in East Kent for people with learning disabilities, to enable them to achieve the things that they want out of life and to be valued, treated equally, listened to and included.

This was reflected in the nominations with people writing to show thanks for the difference members of staff have made to their lives in supporting them learn daily skills that many of us take for granted. As well as this, this organisation is one of few in the Country to receive a Beacon status for their social club, which is only presented to clubs who reflect a high standard of leisure and social opportunities for people with learning disabilities and who have partnered with Mencap.



People's award



**Paul Carter, Tanya Post
and Sam Holman**

Winner: Tanya Post

Tanya's had work for the Thanet District Partnership Group over the past few years has seen her grow in confidence, develop new skills and become active in encouraging and supporting individuals and groups.

This year she has played a leading role in encouraging people with learning disabilities to register to vote and volunteered many hours to support the work locally.

As well as co-delivering two 'Get my vote' workshops, Tanya helped in the preparation, planning and promotion of a successful hustings in Thanet, where parliamentary candidates from the five main parties came to answer questions from the audience.



Helping people stay healthy award



**Daniel Hewitt, Dr Ken Adegoke, Paul Carter
and Sam Holman**

Winner: Dr Ken Adegoke

Dr Adegoke is a consultant anaesthetist at East Kent Hospital Trust, who has shown commitment and determination to find a way to deliver healthcare to people with severe challenging behaviour who were refusing all other forms of treatment.

Dr Adegoke has gone well beyond what would normally be offered – including a home visit and even meeting a patient in the car park as preparation for the treatment.

This work has led the Trust to recognise the needs of people with very complex needs and to make adjustments in their services to meet those needs. From this the Trust developed a new pathway of care with reasonable adjustments for people who find it difficult to access general acute hospital care. This has the potential to reach a wider group of people and will make health screening accessible for all those who find this most difficult.





Graham Gibbens, KCC Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, said:

“I’m delighted that Kent County Council was able to recognise the companies, services and people who go the extra mile to help give people with a learning disability more choice, improved independence and access to their communities.

By highlighting these achievements, I hope it will encourage others to look at what they can do to support people with a learning disability in their community.”

