

**Kent Learning Disability**

**Partnership Awards**

**2014**



Winners'  
Special



**Kent  
County  
Council**  
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## **Newsletter**

### **Winners' Special**

Kent County Council has announced the winners of its first ever Learning Disability Partnership Awards to celebrate unsung heroes who are making a difference to others.

More than 160 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

The worthy winners of the five categories attended a ceremony on 2 September 2014 at County Hall to receive their awards from KCC leader Paul Carter and co-chair of the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board Tina Walker.



## Employer of people with a learning disability award



Tina Walker, Paul Carter and Twyla Mart

Winner: Twyla Mart, Trust Lead for the Bright Futures Project, and Resources Manager at Kent and Canterbury Hospital

The Bright Futures Project supports vulnerable young people to gain work-based skills in Thanet. The judges were impressed with a nomination which told the story of a person with a learning disability who moved from a six-month contract to a permanent 32-hour-a-week post as a Case Notes Collection Clerk with Clinical Coding. Now in its fourth year, close to 40% of graduates have found employment of at least 16 hours or more a week.

## Citizenship award



Tina Walker, Paul Carter, Sam Holman  
and Tanya Orchin

There are two winners:

Sam Holman and Tanya Orchin, Dartford and Gravesham District Partnership Group.

Sam, who has a learning disability, and Tanya were nominated for their work on the hospital passport key fob in Dartford. The fob can be scanned by the hospital to access important information about people with learning disabilities and their health. The judges were impressed with their work as the fob gives people greater confidence in the community and gives parents and carers greater peace of mind. It also means that hospital visits are less intimidating for people with learning disabilities and also raises awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities to hospital staff. The scheme has the potential to become county-wide and even be rolled out on a national scale.



## Citizenship award



Tina Walker, Paul Carter and Tessa Stickler

Tessa Stickler, Sports Centre Manager, Folkestone Sports Centre

Tessa has worked hard to make sure the venue has become more accessible for people with learning disabilities with the installation of a mobile hoist and specialised equipment. Money has also been raised for a sensory garden for the whole community. The judges were impressed she had gone the extra mile to make the sports centre accessible and used equally by people with learning disabilities as well as the whole community.

The judges said: “Although Tessa organises many activities for people with learning disabilities, her priority is also to get people living together to be able to enjoy their community fully.”

## Supporting people with a learning disability ward



Tina Walker, Paul Carter and  
Janice Roberts (on behalf of Matt Anderson)

There are two winners:

Matt Anderson, from Canterbury.

Matt's award was collected by his manager Janice Roberts at Active Lives.

Matt has made a real difference to the life of a man he supports, who cannot speak or move. His role is to communicate for him and make sure his needs are met. Judges said Matt has made a big impact on his emotional and mental wellbeing and has a real connection with him. The person who nominated him said "watching them together is quite amazing as they have such a strong bond".



## Supporting people with a learning disability award



Tina Walker, Paul Carter, Gina Tomlin  
and Lesley Goldsmith

Lesley Goldsmith and Gina Tomlin, Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford

Gina and Lesley have worked tirelessly to improve the experience of people with a learning disability when attending or admitted to hospital. They have changed the way things are done to make sure people with a learning disability are looked after in a thoughtful way, with the person at the heart of the approach to admissions, hospital stays and discharge from hospitals. This includes arranging for people with learning disabilities to visit the ward they are due to stay in before being admitted to hospital and giving parents and carers the chance to provide advice to nurses and doctors to make the discharge home as smooth as possible. Gina and Lesley have made a real difference to people in a time of crisis and made sure the changes they have made will be sustained for the future.

## Supported housing award



Tina Walker, Becky Glibbery and  
Paul Carter

Winner: Becky Glibbery, from KASBAH, Northfleet.

KASBAH provides support services to people with physical or learning disabilities throughout Kent. Becky was nominated for the award because she has demonstrated that it is important for her service users to be more than just that. She has come up with fun and innovative approaches to support people to learn, such as the Come Dine with Me experience she organised. There are many support workers who go the extra mile for people with learning disabilities, however, judges felt that Becky's learning through fun approach really builds the confidence of the people she supports. Over the past five years, her many projects have supported people to prepare for a successful move into the community. The judges felt Becky will continue to use her imaginative methods to really boost their enjoyment of life.





## People's award



Tina Walker, Steve Chapman and  
Paul Carter

Winner: Steven Chapman, from Deal.

The judges felt that Steven clearly has a deep interest in the rights and life chances of people with learning disabilities. He has been active in helping people to get jobs and has made presentations to Job Centre staff. He has been involved in Voice4Kent and has been co-chair of the Job Action Group and the Kent Partnership Board. He has recently taken a post with the National Co-Production Team and is engaged in a variety of training roles. In addition to his busy, committee type work, Steven maintains close contact with people with learning disabilities at a local level. A good example of this is a youth music scheme where he has been key to the scheme's success. He is willing to learn, has a 'can-do' attitude and is, above all, a great advocate for people with learning disabilities. He fits the criteria for this award admirably because "through hard work he has made a positive difference to his own and other people's lives".



Graham Gibbens, KCC Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, said: “There is a lot of wonderful work which goes on around the county to support people with learning disabilities and these awards celebrates some of the very best. These are very worthy winners who have gone the extra mile to help give people with a learning disability more choice, improved independence and access to their local communities so they can live their lives without barriers. We hope that these awards will encourage others to look at what they can do to support people with a learning disability more choice, improved independence and access to their local communities so they can live their lives without barriers. We hope that these awards will encourage others to look at what they can do to support people with learning disabilities in their community.”

