

## **Workplace Hero Awards**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

“Any council knows that their staff are their biggest asset and we certainly have a wonderful passionate, committed and skilled workforce.

The awards stretched right across the council recognising the collective and individual efforts and achievements of staff at the County Council. It was truly inspiring to listen to all the nominations and their dedication and commitment.

Examples of the stories we heard are; firstly the team from the Hillcrest Day Centre, for adults with learning disabilities, were nominated for their actions in January when a snow downfall caused 20 clients to be stuck in the centre due to gridlocked roads. The team stayed late into the evening, ensuring the clients were safe and warm, kept up to date and even walking to the local Tesco to buy food and drink to keep them all going, as well as thinking about any emergency medication.

Secondly, Vanessa Rolfe and Lisa Gardner from Resources and Children’s Services for their caring and responsive actions when faced with a medical emergency. Vanessa and Lisa were at a meeting when a DWP staff member fell, knocked her head and become unconscious, a condition which quickly worsened when she stopped breathing. Thanks to Vanessa calling an ambulance and Lisa performing CPR, the individual made a full recovery.

I’d like to mention a special recognition award. In June last year, several members of our youth offending service, in particular Robert and Aman, intervened when a young man was stabbed near to their office. With an extraordinary presence of mind they administered immediate first aid and stayed with the young man who was losing significant amounts of blood, reassuring him all the time. They then worked with the emergency services and accompanied him to hospital. The result of their actions was that they helped to save his life.

I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight some of the winners from those Awards. The Team of the Year Awards went to the Steeples’ Residential Home Team, nominated for their hard work in getting from inadequate to good in the recent Ofsted inspection. To turn this around in six months showed extraordinary teamwork. By implementing the improvements recommended by Ofsted, the team have been able to provide a high quality of placements for some of the county's most vulnerable young people, and children in the home report feeling happier and safer. This kind of change in such a short time is very hard to achieve.

The Manager of the Year went to Cynthia Tapping who manages the Stoke Mandeville Hospital Team. She has been described as a kind, caring and compassionate manager who supports her team to the highest level. Cynthia has been at the forefront of much of the work in the integration of health and social care. She has trialled new ways of working and continually looks for better ways of doing

things. Cynthia often sacrifices her own personal time, putting herself forward for weekend working so the team is fully supported.

And the Employee of the Year award went to Marco Dias who has shown a huge amount of initiative in driving forward a highly successful programme of work to support the council and the county in preparation for Brexit. Thanks to his efforts the council has received national recognition for best practice in Brexit planning and we have been able to be proactive in providing information to help our local residents, businesses and other stakeholders to prepare.

There were so many nominations too – it made it so difficult to judge winners. We have great people who do truly great work”