



PRESS RELEASE

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Connecting Learners is a finalist in the Social Care Accolades 2013!

Connecting Learners is celebrating after its project to provide learning opportunities for staff and volunteers in the community and voluntary sector was announced as a finalist in the Social Care Accolades 2013.

The Accolades, which are led by the Care Council for Wales, celebrate best practice that is helping to professionalise the workforce and transform social care, early years and childcare across Wales.

The organisation, which is based in Swansea, is up for the Leadership to Achieve Confident, Competent and Professional Workers award (sponsored by Educ8 Training Limited).

Judges praised its Connecting Learners in the Third Sector project, for supporting work-based learning opportunities for staff and volunteers, with a specific focus on literacy, numeracy and information technology.

The project was embraced by staff and volunteers with more than 500 people attending training workshops and many others taking Open University courses in subjects such as Working with Children and Understanding Psychology.

The training has helped employees in the community and voluntary sector to perform their roles with greater confidence and more efficiency.

The organisation will be competing against two other social care projects in its category and the winners of the Accolades will be announced on June 21, 2013.

Arwel Ellis Owen, Chair of the Social Care Accolades judging panel, said: "We were delighted to receive so many high-quality entries from across Wales. This shows that organisations are investing in the development of their staff, leading to well-designed initiatives that provide high-quality outcomes for those receiving services and support.

“We know that quality services delivered by skilled staff can transform people’s lives for the better, through working directly with individuals and families, and in their communities.

“The Accolades are an opportunity to recognise good practice and ensure it is shared with others to improve services across Wales. I would like to thank everyone who entered and wish good luck to all those who have made the finals.”

The biennial awards, which are now being held for the fifth time, are presented to teams, partnerships and organisations which have improved social care and early years and childcare by investing in the learning and development of their people.

With 71 entries received, the highest since the Accolades began, the judging panel had the tough task of selecting the 17 finalists in the six award categories.

The Social Care Accolades were launched in 2005 to showcase examples of excellence and good practice in this sector.

The winners will be announced in a ceremony at Cardiff City Hall on June 21, 2013.

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For a full list of finalists for the Social Care Accolades 2013 please visit www.ccwales.org.uk