



Phoenix Futures staff celebrate excellent year of recovery

Inspirational staff and volunteers from drug and alcohol recovery charity Phoenix Futures were recognised at the charity's annual achievement awards on Friday 30 January for their dedication and success in helping thousands of people tackle problems with substance misuse.

The New Year Honours awards saw over 150 people from across the national organisation attend the glittering ceremony at Church House in Westminster. Phoenix Futures works in over 90 services across England and Scotland, helping people overcome their problems with drug and alcohol in prisons, community and residential settings. Staff voted for their colleagues to receive the awards on an online poll, and 12 trophies were presented to individuals and teams for a range of categories, including unsung hero, volunteer and criminal justice awards.

Karen Biggs, Phoenix Futures' Chief Executive, said: "The New Year's Honours Awards is always an incredible day, and helps bring together our staff, volunteers and service users to recognise the challenging and rewarding work of the team. Over 700 employees work for Phoenix and it is truly awe-inspiring how they help over 19,000 people into treatment every year. We recognised some very special achievements during the awards but it is the work of the organisation as a whole which allows us to make a difference to so many people's lives."

"I would like to say huge congratulations to everyone who was nominated and won an award, and thank you to everyone who made journeys, some from as far as Scotland, to celebrate with us."

The event included performances from poet Sirena Reynolds and singer Rowdy Yates and the New Beginnings Choir. Mr Yates, who co-founded the Lifeline Project and won an MBE in 1994 for services to the prevention of drug misuse, performed four songs with the choir made up of service users from the Glasgow residential centre.

Karen also presented an Outstanding Contribution Award to Special Projects Officer Bob Campbell for his 31 years' service to Phoenix Futures. Mr Campbell, 71, has worked on various projects throughout his career with Phoenix but continues to introduce new ideas to engage people who have drug and alcohol problems, such as the Recovery Street Film Festival which was a hugely successful film festival launched last year.

Trophies were also presented to Samantha Durrant from HMP Pentonville for the Community Engagement Award, Ray Smith from the Wirral Community Service for the Service User Award, the Recovery Through Nature programme and the Woodlands Trust for the Partnership Award, the Building Future's programme team at HMP Pentonville for the Criminal Justice Award, Angie Barron from the Leicester Recovery Partnership for the Affected Others Award, Danielle Cave from the Southwark Alcohol Service for the Volunteer Award, Carole Rudland from HMP Holme House for the Unsung Hero Award, Helen Brewin from the Trafford Young Persons Centre for Leadership Award, the Cycle2Change team for the Recovery Innovation Award and Mandy Ogunmokun for the Recovery Icon Award.

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Notes to Editors

- Phoenix Futures is a leading provider of services for people with drug and alcohol problems.
- We offer services within community, prison and residential settings in England and Scotland.
- Established in 1969, Phoenix has 46 years' experience in helping people through recovery.
- Over 19,000 people every year begin their treatment with Phoenix Futures.