



AGE CONCERN METRO ROCHDALE

PRESS RELEASE

21 October '09

Dignity in Care Awards Evening

Over one hundred people turned out at Rochdale Town Hall to recognise and celebrate our local Champions in Care. From Hospital Staff to next door neighbours that go the extra mile in showing dignity in care to older people across the Borough, all those shortlisted were presented with a certificate and signed book by the Guest of Honour for the evening Simon Weston OBE. There were four categories for the awards, Residential and Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Care at Home and Mental Health.

Francis Ukpebar of Hulton Care in Middleton was the deserving winner for the Residential and Nursing Homes category, having been nominated by resident Albert Goodwin for 'giving him his dignity back and making him feel worthy of life again.'

The winner for the Hospitals category was Helen Taylor, Staff Nurse at North Manchester General Hospital, having been nominated for her empathetic and caring nature towards patients and staff alike, the colleague that nominated her said of Helen, 'without realising anyone is looking she speaks to patients with such respect, dignity and care...on one occasion when with a patient with Alzheimer's her manner, words and actions brought a tear to my eye.'

Wendy Wilkinson of Heywood was the deserving winner for the Care at Home category, having been nominated by her mother Brenda, Wendy is a full time carer to her daughter who has Cerebral Palsy and still manages to find the time and energy to care for her mother in a way that means Brenda is able to live a very dignified lifestyle in her own home at 85 years of age.'

The Award for the final category, Mental Health, was given to Tricia Hornby of Rochdale & District Mind, having been nominated for her dedication to the provision of an older person's service for Mental Health in the Rochdale Borough. Until only a few years ago services were only provided for those aged 18 to 65. But now due to Tricia's determination and hard work people aged 65 and over are able to access an advocacy service that means their voice is heard and therefore their dignity upheld.

In addition to the winners of the four categories, special recognition was given to local campaigner Vera Hirst who was awarded a Dignity in Care Special Award for her tireless commitment to Dignity in Care throughout the Borough.

Paul Gala, Chief Officer of Age Concern Metro Rochdale said of the evening 'the quality and amount of nominations we received was overwhelming and demonstrates the high level of dignity in care across the Borough, it is really important that we acknowledge and celebrate this. It was wonderful to have Simon Weston as our Guest of Honour and we are really pleased to be able to confirm that Simon will be supporting this campaign again next year.'

Simon Weston was delighted to be able to lend his support to the event adding, 'these individuals are all doing a remarkable and wonderful job and are the true stars of this evening. None of us can change the world but we can all do our bit to change the lives of those around us, and that's exactly what these individuals are doing.'