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News release

Award nomination for opening door for people with autistic spectrum conditions

A scheme that provides help and support to local people with autistic spectrum conditions has been shortlisted for a prestigious regional award.

Open Door, based in Hainton Avenue, Grimsby, is a social business affiliated to The Big Life group of social businesses and charities, which delivers a number of services funded by North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus.

The service has been nominated in the Support for Independence category at the 2010 Yorkshire and Humber Health and Social Care Awards for the work done by the autistic spectrum condition (ASC) outreach team.

The ASC outreach service is designed to provide support to people over 16 who have an autistic spectrum condition. Autistic spectrum condition (ASC) is an umbrella term and includes a number of different conditions including autism, Rett's syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder and Asperger syndrome. While these are distinct conditions, they all share common features and are seen as lying along a spectrum which ranges from mild symptoms to severely impaired.

People with an ASC have difficulty making sense of the world. These difficulties are primarily around social interaction and communication, meaning that they can often find social situations difficult and distressing, and as a result can become very isolated.

Open Door offers one-to-one support from dedicated and trained outreach support workers including social inclusion, signposting to other agencies, advocacy and support to attend activities and appointments as well as access to all other Open Door services.

Rob Baty, social care manager for Open Door, said: "We are thrilled to be shortlisted for this award.

"Many people with autistic spectrum conditions suffer enormous limitations on their life opportunities because of the absence of adequate support to enable them to fulfil their potential.

"Open Door's ASC service works with individuals to develop their skills and confidence to ensure they can aspire to a better tomorrow."

The Yorkshire and Humber awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 7 at Saviles Hall in Leeds. All regional winners will also then be entered for a national award.

Residents wanting further information about the ASC outreach service or Open Door should ring Rob Baty social care manager or Carin Pollexfen senior case worker on (01472) 722000 or visit the website at www.opendoorcare.co.uk

Notes to editors

The Health and Social Care Awards exist to:

1. Highlight and celebrate innovation and excellence across health and social care
2. Recognise and encourage working together across organisations and professions, with service users and local populations

The Health and Social Care Awards have an established nine year history and provide an unparalleled opportunity to highlight and celebrate innovation and excellence in the provision of frontline health and social care.

Open Door is a Big Life affiliate. The Big Life group is one of the largest social businesses in the north, providing support and opportunities for people facing exclusion to change their lives.

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For further information, contact the communications team on (01472) 625329 or email comms@nelctp.nhs.uk

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