Stars are shining in Ayrshire

More than 130 members of NHS Ayrshire & Arran staff, volunteers and members of the public gathered on Thursday 11 June 2015 to support the 26 finalists for this year’s Ayrshire Achieves awards.

Through the awards, local people – and other NHS staff - had the chance to recognise the contribution of health workers and volunteers who have gone the extra mile.

John Burns, Chief Executive – NHS Ayrshire & Arran - explained: “The awards gave the 26 finalists recognition for their hard work and dedication in providing high quality care. They came from a wide range of disciplines – from catering assistants to doctors, and from nursing teams to volunteers.

“I would like to thank all those who came along to support their friends and colleagues. With lots of cheers and applause, the atmosphere was electric.”

Competition for the awards was fierce, with a high calibre of entries. The judging panel – with representatives from NHS staff, members of the public, volunteer groups, sponsors and NHS Board members - had a difficult task in selecting the finalists for each category.

The winners, announced on the night, were:

Chairman’s award:

- The Centre of Excellence for Practice Management was launched in September 2008. The initial project was intended to provide a framework for excellence in general practice management that would sit alongside the high quality general medical services delivered in Ayrshire. The Centre of Excellence allows practice managers to network and engage with their peers, while sharing ideas on best practice and providing peer support.

Customer commitments:

- Karen McCormick is a Senior Charge Nurse in University Hospital Ayr, and was recognised as a professional, caring and valued member of the surgical
team at University Ayr Hospital. Karen continually strives to embed the organisational values of caring, safe and respectful within her ward. She has helped to develop a holistic patient-centred initiative both within her team and on a national level.

Light bulb moments:

- The **Activity team** was nominated for their work to promote the importance of meaningful activity for older people in hospital, particular those with dementia. The team has developed ‘Pocket ideas… a moment in time’, a pocket-sized guide, with ideas and activities to stimulate and engage with older people. The project promotes increased self-esteem, reduces the risk of low mood, and empowers people to achieve their own person-centred goals.

Building relationships - sponsored by the Royal College of Nursing:

- The **Employability Team** were recognised for their work in partnership within the Prince’s Trust to plan, develop and deliver a new employability programme for young unemployed people in Ayrshire, to help prepare them for work in healthcare. NHS Ayrshire & Arran is the first board in Scotland to have completed a healthcare programme with the Prince’s Trust.

Volunteer of the year - sponsored by the Royal College of Nursing:

- **Elaine Steven** is a Volunteer Peer Support Worker with the NHS Addiction Services team, alongside the occupational therapists. She uses her own personal experiences of alcohol-related brain damage to help others who are earlier in the recovery journey. Elaine has shown real determination and honesty in helping other service users, and recognises the importance of sharing her lived experience.

Caring for people - sponsored by UNISON:

- **Jeanette Henderson** is a Senior Charge Nurse on Elgin Ward in Ailsa Hospital, and was nominated for her caring attitude to patients and staff alike. Jeanette is now in her 50th year as a registered nurse, having started at Ailsa Hospital as a student nurse aged 16 in October 1965. Her most recent achievement has been the development of Elgin Ward, a specialist rehabilitation environment for men and women suffering from mental health problems who, as a result of their illness, need to be cared for in a secure environment.
Learning achievement - sponsored by UNISON:

- The Early Years team was recognised for its work to support students in the workplace. With the team’s support, the students are able to work with the community nursing team, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, midwives and pharmacists. This allows the students to have an overall knowledge of the teams involved, and is a further example of excellent teamwork.

Health, safety and wellbeing - sponsored by UNISON:

- Liz Bacon is the Promoting Attendance Lead for NHS Ayrshire & Arran. Liz was nominated for the inspirational way in which she has helped to promote attendance at work throughout the organisation, in particular within hospital wards. She has given managers the tools needed to implement the policy, and the confidence required to support staff during times of illness.

Team of the year - sponsored by UNISON:

Joint winners:

- The Intensive Care Unit team from University Hospital Crosshouse was nominated for their efforts in always putting the patient at the heart of care. Being in ICU can be a traumatic time for both the patient and their family. The ICU team at University Hospital Crosshouse has introduced a series of simple changes to improve the patient experience.

- The Senior Advance Nurse Practitioner team provides an out-of-hours service on the island of Cumbrae. The team of six Advanced Nurse Practitioners are highly experienced nurses, fully qualified in acute care, with the clinical knowledge and experience to assess and treat a multitude of conditions. Working closely with the island hospital nursing staff, Scottish Ambulance Service and the island GP, the team are committed to providing a safe and caring service to the people of Cumbrae.

People’s choice:

- The innovative Family Nurse Partnership programme begins in early pregnancy and focuses on helping young women to have a healthy pregnancy
and to feel confident about supporting their baby to grow, develop and learn. The team were nominated by a young mum, Rebeka, who found the support and care provided by her family nurse helped her to get through the ups and downs that a new baby brings.

Mr Burns added: “I would like to thank all the patients, members of the public, volunteers and members of staff who entered or nominated someone for this year’s Ayrshire Achieves. Just to be nominated is a great achievement itself, and to reach the final stages is fantastic.

“For the 11 winners, the phrase ‘to go the extra mile’ seems to have been coined with them in mind. They really have helped to the improve healthcare in Ayrshire and Arran. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them and wish them the very best for the future.”

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Photographs:

110615-AA(32).jpg: Chairman’s award: Centre of Excellence for Practice Management

110615-AA(6).jpg: Customer commitments: Karen McCormick is pictured with West FM’s Zoe Kelly and Chief Executive John Burns

110615-AA(24).jpg: Light Bulb moments: Activity Team

110615-AA(9).jpg: Building relationships: Employability team are pictured with West FM’s Zoe Kelly and Julie Lamberth, RCN representative
Volunteer of the year: Elaine Steven is pictured with West FM’s Zoe Kelly and Julie Lamberth, RCN representative

Caring for people: Jeanette Henderson is pictured with West FM’s Zoe Kelly and Sandra Hunter, UNISON representative

Learning achievement: The Early Years team are pictured with West FM’s Zoe Kelly and Sandra Hunter, UNISON representative

Staff health, safety and wellbeing: Liz Bacon is pictured with West FM’s Zoe Kelly and Sandra Hunter, UNISON representative

Team of the year: The ICU team from University Hospital Crosshouse are pictured with West FM’s Zoe Kelly and Sandra Hunter, UNISON representative

Team of the year: The ANP team on Cumbrae

People’s choice: Family Nurse Partnership

All the Ayrshire Achieves winners

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