

# Solihull - Together for Better Lives Award for Phoenix House

It was celebrations all round as organisers announced the winners of the inaugural Solihull Together for Better Lives awards at an inspiring ceremony in the Renewal Conference Centre.

The awards, developed to recognise and celebrate outstanding work by individuals and organisations in Solihull to support older people in the community, were held in the presence of the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Kate Wild and awards host Les Lawrence, Chairman of the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust Board.

Dr Patrick Brooke, Accountable Officer for Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, representing the award organisers, said, "We hope that the Solihull Together for Better Lives awards will help to raise awareness of the outstanding work which is going on across the public, private and voluntary sectors to support our older residents. Our aim is for these awards to become an annual celebration to showcase how we are working together to improve care and support in the Borough."

The award for the Outstanding Initiative in Supported Living was awarded to the Team at Phoenix House led by Scheme Manager Beverley Miles.



Judges said:

"Phoenix House is an extra care scheme in Shirley which provides individual apartments for older people who want to live on their own but may need personal care and support.

The team at Phoenix House have put together a wide range of activities as well as resident volunteering and fund raising. The service has made links with other organisations to introduce new activities such as Boccia [pronounced Bo cha] (seated bowls) run by the Council's Solihull Active team, fashion shows, parties, visiting entertainers and events as well as old 'favourites' such as bingo, quizzes and coffee mornings.

Judges loved the range of activities on offer. They also commended the enthusiastic and positive leadership of the team at Phoenix House who have created a happy and vibrant community for their residents."

Beverley Miles, Scheme Manager at Phoenix House said:

"I'm absolutely honoured and overwhelmed to receive this Award on behalf of the team at Phoenix House - it's just brilliant! Phoenix House was the first extra-care housing scheme to open in Solihull which I was privileged to be part of. We have built up an excellent reputation and have developed an exciting programme of activities and entertainment over the last year. It really makes a difference to the residents' lives. They are becoming very competitive, recently winning a cup for their Boccia win, whilst competing at another scheme. A special thanks to my assistant, Jo O'Brien, who helps make it all happen."