

Friday 20th November - Friday 4th December 2020

#LDScotSpotlight







SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMME

Two weeks of online celebration to shine a light on our 2020 Scottish Learning Disability Award finalists

Friday 20th November 4pm

Join us LIVE on the SCLD Facebook page: @ScotCommission

Scottish Learning Disability Awards Spotlight 2020 full video premiere

Join us for a chance to celebrate something truly special. Get together with
those in your household and spread the word so that your family, friends and
supporters can join in too! #LDScotSpotlight







24 NOVEMBER

Social Impact Award supported by

Social Investment Scotland

Employee Recognition Award presented by Minister for Mental

Health, Clare Haughey

Family Carer and their

Relative Award supported by PAMIS

26 NOVEMBER

Scotland and Carers Trust Scotland

Sport Achievement Award 27 NOVEMBER

sponsored by Active Scotland

SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMME Two weeks of online celebration to shine a light on

Two weeks of online celebration to shine a light on our 2020 Scottish Learning Disability Award finalists

Creative Innovation Award supported by Creative Scotland

1 DECEMBER

Skills and Learning Award sponsored by Skills Development Scotland

2 DECEMBER

Living your best life Award sponsored by the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland

3 DECEMBER

Community Champion Award sponsored by SCVO

4 DECEMBER









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The Scottish Learning Disability Awards provide an opportunity to celebrate, on a national level, the rarely heard stories and achievements of people with learning disabilities and the people who support them.

Social Impact

The New Beginnings Cafe - Highly Commended

The New Beginnings Café and social enterprise is just that – a place where people with a learning disability can come to learn hospitality skills in a warm and friendly environment. Heather, Alan, Caroline, Kirsty, Iram, Michael, Cameron, Joanna, Kerryann and Lynn together make up a dedicated team of volunteers that support the Café. They work together to gain skills and knowledge through supported training and hands-on experiences, everyone has the chance to work across all aspects of the business, from working in the kitchen to the front of house. This committed and enthusiastic team of people with learning disabilities and Café staff are at the heart of their community in Irvine.





Alexander Warren - Winner

Alexander's business 'AJP Dreams' (www.ajpdreams.co.uk) was created to work with people with a learning disability, professionals and families to show how supporting people to dream can lead to real life achievements they may never previously have thought possible. Alexander has overcome his own health challenges to become the success he is today; however more importantly, in keeping with the name of his business, he hasn't let others stand in the way of his dreams.

Employee Recognition

Ruth Macaulay - Highly Commended

Ruth Macaulay is a vivacious personality who has seen her talent blossom in her role as Printing and Digital Assistant at The Liberte Project. Ruth has a learning and physical disability alongside a long-term health condition, mental health issues and impaired vision. However, she has not let any of this stop her - since joining the team she has learnt to use the printing equipment expertly and never hesitates to help others, producing 'how-to' guides on using equipment. Ruth's colleagues find her commitment and enthusiasm infectious.











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Andrew Hiddleston - Winner

Andrew Hiddleston has gone from a wallflower to the centre of the party – quite literally – in his role as Ambassador for get2gether Edinburgh! Through his role as a get2gether Ambassador he has learnt to travel independently and has overcome his fear of public speaking to become a campaigner and spokesperson for people with learning disabilities. Andrew now helps others to thrive through taking part in a variety of events which he organises; to date he has hosted over 75 social events at get2gether and it seems like the party isn't going to stop for Andrew...

Sport Achievement

Laura Logan - Highly Commended

When Laura Logan first started swimming, she had to challenge many people's expectations about what someone with Down's syndrome can do. Laura didn't let this stop her and has competed for Great Britain as part of the European Down Syndrome Swimming Championships. Laura's dedication to her sport has not gone unnoticed and she is now in paid employment as a Sports Development Assistant with South Ayrshire Council, after she was nominated for the position by the Council's Head of Swim Teaching.





Matt Fisher - Winner

Matt Fisher has to overcome additional challenges before he even gets off the start line of a Canoe Sprint race, but that doesn't stop him. Matt trains 6 days a week, year-round whatever the Scottish weather throws at him! In the past he has found team sports and social interaction challenging, but he has thrived in the close-knit and dedicated atmosphere at Linlithgow Kayak Racing Club. Matt is helping to pave the way in kayaking for other young people in Scotland with Autism and a learning disability. His commitment and dedication is inspiring others like him to take up the sport. Matt has gone onto win many races, and is currently the Scottish champion in the Canoe Sprint 200m Under 16, after winning a Gold Medal in the race at the Scottish Sprint Championships in September 2019.







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Family Carer and their Relative

Shahzad and Waleed Ahmad - Winner

The Ahmad family are devoted carers to their youngest member, fifteen-year-old Waleed. Waleed has both a physical and a learning disability and relies on the love and support of his mum, dad and older brother, Shahzad. Shahzad and Waleed have a special bond; Shahzad helps Waleed with his everyday tasks and makes him smile every day. Waleed cannot speak, but Shahzad is determined that his voice will still be heard and has set up a Facebook page to raise awareness of people living with a disability like his brother. The Ahmad family use their experience and knowledge to help other families caring for people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities, both in Scotland and in Pakistan.





Creative Innovation

The Arts End of Somewhere - Highly Commended

The Arts End of Somewhere began their journey with multisensory storytelling in May 2019 at a recruitment event in Dumfries. Young people with an interest in the arts were invited to find out more and if interested they could sign up for training with PAMIS, an organisation working with people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities. By the end of August 2019, the group had written, developed and created three multi-sensory stories themselves. The group are blazing a trail for inclusion and are showing how the creative arts can open-up opportunities for people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities, as well as others.

The Fridays - Winner

The Fridays are five young adults with learning disabilities who together form an inclusive rock band. The Fridays' journey began back in school when their music teacher realised they were musically gifted, and that music allowed them to communicate in a way they were otherwise unable to do. Since then they have never looked back and are now playing to huge live audiences at various festivals, including Celtic Connections, the Merchant City Festival and Solas Festival. Last year they performed at the opening ceremony of the IASSIDD Conference attended by delegates from across the globe.







Ciaran Walker - Highly Commended



Ciaran has a learning disability, is autistic and communicates mostly non-verbally; none of these facts have held him back from pursuing and reaching his goals. Ciaran has been attending The Royal Blind School in Edinburgh since 2011 and last year (2019) passed his National 4 maths, National 2 & 3 French and National 2 IT and PE. He takes an active part in extra-curricular activities and has overcome his struggles with anxiety to perform on stage in the school Christmas show. Ciaran attends Scouts, is a yellow belt in Karate is now working towards his Grade 3 piano. Ciaran has overcome daily challenges to make huge progress with his array of skills and talents; it is clear he has many more achievements to come in the future.

Morgan Mark Deer - Winner

When Morgan Mark Deer first expressed his ambition to work in the hospitality industry, he felt those around him didn't believe in his skills and abilities. However, when he saw an opportunity to train at local café, The Usual Place, one day a week during his final year of school, he felt finally that he had a chance to prove he could reach his dreams. It didn't take Morgan long to settle in and he quickly picked up a variety of kitchen skills; so impressive are Morgan's professional knife skills that when an SVQ Assessor visited, they asked which cutting machine had been used to chop the vegetables! Morgan has now made his next career move and works full time, 5 days a week at The Usual Place with a renewed sense of confidence.



Living your best life Lewis Murray-Smith - Highly Commended



Lewis Murray-Smith has made the successful transition from living at home with his parents and brother, to living a successful, independent life in a home of his own. Through support from his family and the help of his support team at The Richmond Fellowship, Lewis now lives an independent life. Lewis has used his new-found confidence to give back to his local community, and is an active member of his local community garden, the Concrete Garden. Working in the garden Lewis has been able to learn new skills, such as garden maintenance, as well as benefitting from the opportunity to socialise with his fellow gardeners. Lewis has also enrolled as a volunteer at Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) where he is supported to volunteer in the stables.



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Craig Costello - Winner

Craig Costello has turned his life around and is now living the life he wants to, in his own home and on his own terms. In 2017 Craig's life hit rock bottom when he was admitted to hospital with liver damage due to excessive drinking. Since then the change in Craig has been truly remarkable; in his most difficult times Craig needed 42 hours a week of support from Support for Ordinary Living (SOL) his support provider. Now he needs just 23 hours. Craig hasn't touched a drop of alcohol in three years and in 2018 he received the keys to his first permanent home. Craig has a learning disability and Asperger's syndrome, both of which can sometimes make it difficult for him to communicate with others. However, Craig has worked hard with the team at SOL to improve his communication skills and his relationships with other people. He has been so successful that he gained employment after attending interviews, unsupported.



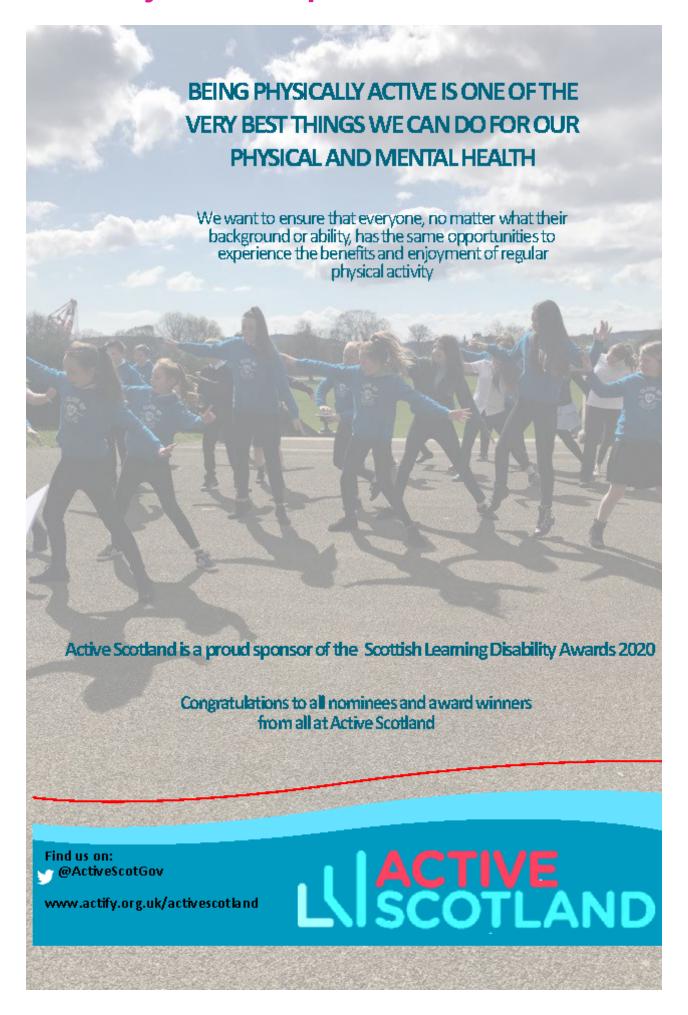
Community Champion

Life through a lens Research Team - Highly Commended Andrew, Michael and Louise are the driving force behind (and in front!) of the University of Stirling and Key Support's pioneering 'Life through a Lens' research team. Together with a wider team of researchers they are helping with a significant study into dementia amongst people with a learning disability. Through their work with the University of Stirling they are advocating for the rights of people with learning disabilities and challenging perceptions.

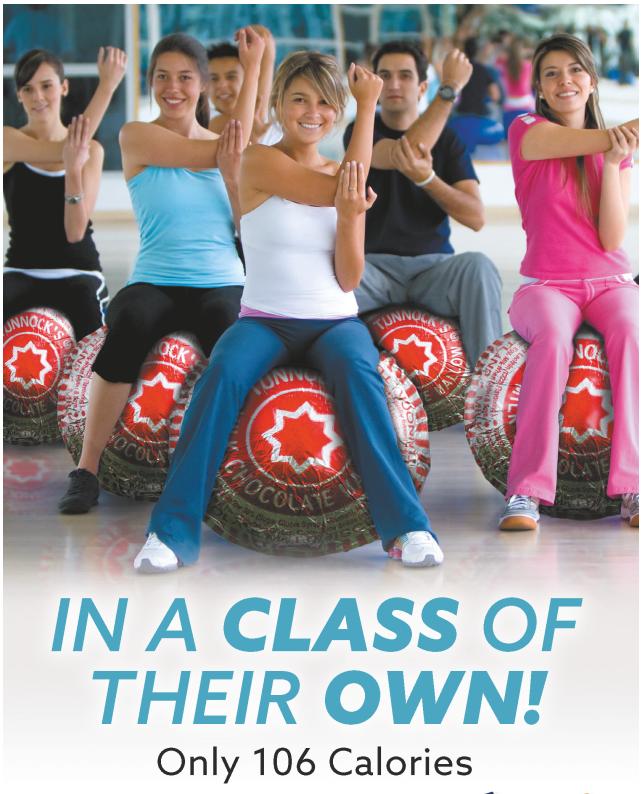
The Gardening Group - Winner

Graham, Stephen, Thomas, Steven, Anne, Linda, Jim and Corinne are a group of committed and hard-working individuals with learning disabilities who have brought their green-fingered touch to their local community garden at the Barrowfield Community Centre. Despite being told that their project was up against it from the start, due to local vandals, the group didn't let anything hold them back! The group's interest in the environment began in 2016 when they completed the John Muir 'Discover' Award – an initiative that encourages people to connect with, care for and enjoy wild places. Since then they have gone from strength to strength, appearing in Garden News Magazine in 2017, and even making an appearance as part of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's BBC 'Veg Power' campaign.

Thank you to our sponsors Active Scotland



Thank you to our sponsors Tunnocks







Thank you to our sponsor SCVO



"The Gardening Group" The Mungo Foundation

winner of this year's Community Champion Award, and to all other finalists in the 2020 Learning Disability Awards.

Proudly sponsored by SCVO the national membership organisation for Scotland's vibrant voluntary sector.

Find out more about all the great work we do at scvo.org.uk



Thank you to our sponsor The Heath and Social Care Alliance Scotland

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland

About us



The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is the national third sector intermediary for a range of health and social care organisations. We have a growing membership of nearly 3,000 national and local third sector organisations, associates in the statutory and private sectors, disabled people, people living with long term conditions and unpaid carers.











Our vision is for a Scotland where people of all ages who are disabled or living with long term conditions, and unpaid carers, have a strong voice and enjoy their right to live well, as equal and active citizens, free from discrimination, with support and services that put them at the centre.



Contact us

Email: info@alliance-scotland.org.uk

Telephone: 0141 404 0231

Website: www.alliance-scotland.org.uk

Twitter: @ALLIANCEScot

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ALLIANCEScot Instagram: www.instagram.com/alliance.scotland







Thank you to our sponsor Skills Development Scotland



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Follow all the action on The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) social media channels! Remember to use the hashtag #LDScotSpotlight

You can also visit the SCLD website at: scld.org.uk



#LDScotSpotlight





