

Care Accolades 2008, Hilton Hotel, Glasgow
13th June 2008

Minister Adam Ingram

SPEAKING NOTE

Good Afternoon. Thank you Kaye and thank you Garry for the kind invitation to attend this year's Care Accolades ceremony. It's hard to believe that it is a year since I attended the last ceremony in what was one of my first official engagements as a Minister.

I know a lot of hard work has gone into the organisation of this event and congratulations are due to the SSSC, particularly the Communications team, for creating this excellent event.

Many thanks also to the organisations sponsoring the awards –

- The City of Glasgow Council
- Association of Directors of Social Work
- Joint Health Improvement Partnership
- UNISON Scotland
- Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services
- Scottish Qualification Authority

This year's ceremony sees a welcome return to Glasgow, host of the event in 2005; many thanks again go to the host sponsor.

Your support as sponsors is vital and ensures that the Care Accolades take place.

To the panel of judges all our thanks for the giving of your time and effort in short listing the finalists from an impressive 80 entries for this year's awards. Not an easy task I'm sure.

Finally my deep thanks to all of you in the audience. You are the reason we are here today. We are here to witness and celebrate your excellent achievements.

Since the awards ceremony last year you have all been involved in taking forward and implementing the recommendations of Changing Lives, which set out the vision of the social service workforce we need for the 21st century. A workforce supported by employers and government that is committed to raising standards in practice, in delivery of services, in education and training, in working in partnership to deliver the best for the users of the services you provide.

In September 2007 we launched the Skills Strategy for Scotland. The social services sector was noted as a sector that is actively looking at the skills and knowledge needed to carry out their roles and tasks. The progressive use of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework(SCQF); guidance on how to recognise prior informal

learning; the launch of a Practice Learning qualification and soon the Continuous Learning Framework place the sector in excellence position of addressing the tasks set in the Strategy.

As I mentioned earlier, last year's ceremony was one of my first Ministerial events and I have to say I was unsure what to expect. I quickly realised that I was in the presence of people who have shown the skill, commitment, enthusiasm and creativity to deliver a wide and varied range of excellent services. Like those nominated last year you are an example to your colleagues throughout the country and to teach all of us what it is possible to achieve.

Today is another opportunity to demonstrate where things have gone well in the sector. I make no apologies for re-iterating that social care is life changing work and one of the most demanding and complex tasks we ask any group to do on our behalf. The Care Accolades is one way to celebrate and reward you for your efforts in carrying out these tasks.

The most important reward of all is for the people whose lives you have made a difference to each and every day.

I would therefore like to offer my congratulations to all of the nominees. Whether or not you actually win an Accolade, you have demonstrated that you have achieved something worthy of being

recognised by all of us. Well done, good luck and enjoy the rest of the afternoon.