

# The Fiona Law Practice Innovation Awards 2011

Dathlu!

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Nottingham

Gwobrau'r  
**Gymraeg**  
mewn Gofal Iechyd  
The  
**Welsh Language** **2011**  
in Healthcare Awards



# Becoming and being a learning disability nurse

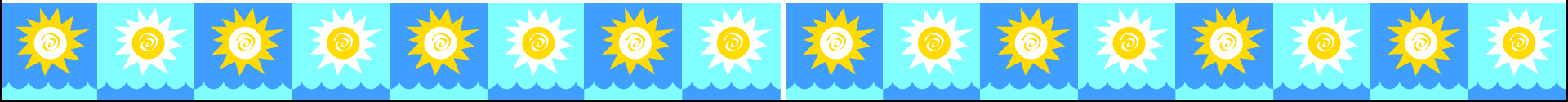
The need to stand up, be counted  
and fly in the face of adversity





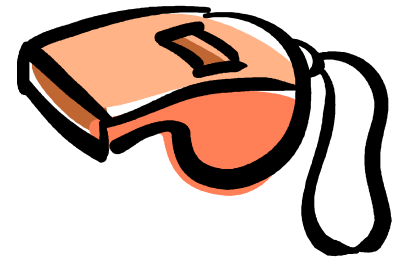
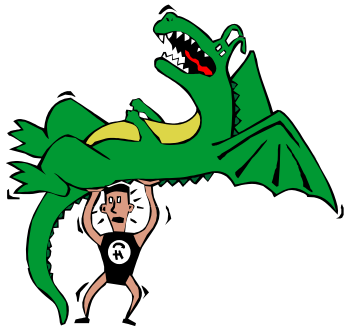
# A prayer from a mum

- Oh, God of mercy, Lord of Light  
How can you explain this tragic sight  
A boy who needs help, support and care  
On the floor, at my feet, with soul laid bare  
  
Backed into a corner, curled up in a ball  
Arms tight around knees, in a cold empty hall  
Sobbing his heart out – hurting like hell  
Unable to move from the place where he fell
- I kneel by the boy who cries like a man  
I hold him and shield him because only I can  
And I swear to my boy, my son, there and then  
“No-one, but no-one will do this to you again!”



# This isn't the sort of nurse you want to be..I know

- To be able to stand up to bullies we need power and energy; and this comes from having good role models and trusted advisors that we can confide in. The same is true for people with a learning disability and their families.



# With a little help from my friends!

- We can take on the bullies;
- Help shield us from our fears
- And help us do the right thing



# So why is the future bright with our student nurses?

- A brighter future means respect and choice, it is of vital importance not to impose your own beliefs and values onto somebody with a learning disability. Professionally, you would not preach to a colleague about your views and this respect is vital in all working relationships. Working alongside people with learning disabilities you appreciate that they should be respected for their individual qualities, personalities and needs. People with a learning disability should not be treated as a collective group but as people with their right to individual choices. I support Morecambe Football Club and like fish and chips; this does not mean everyone follows my passions. Everyone enjoys different hobbies and needs choice.



# I can't help but be inspired.



- We have to be the voice for others when they do not have one and we have to shout out when rights are forgotten about, because if we don't who will?
- It's easy to forget and have the "out of sight out of mind" approach and to hide behind a desk and a computer and feel you are making a difference or to sit in a meeting and talk for hours to no avail; **but** it is **out there in the thick of it** where LD nurses should be; to educate someone different every day in anyway possible that **we are all humans** and we all have the **same rights** as each other. That there is no shame in walking side by side with someone with an impairment and to show that it is society who has the disability NOT the person trying to make their way through life like any other as best they can.

# Remember feeling this good about the job?

- My future could take me anywhere, the world is my oyster but I am focused in working within health facilitation. However my dreams go further than that. I want to do a degree in palliative care so I can marry the two together and offer a specialised area to those with a learning disability. I want to educate those who can't see past the learning disability and to make them realise that these people have needs and wishes and deserve the same respect as anyone else. I want to go into schools and educate children to understand how those with learning disabilities deserve their respect and acceptance. And most of all I want to support those with a learning disability not only with their health needs but their life needs. Can I do all this? Who knows but I am going to give it my best shot because I will be a Learning Disability Nurse and like all of my fellow colleagues I know we will try our best to make a difference.



# Can I have a job please?



- I will finish my studying to become a learning disability nurse in September 2011 and the future is bright because I have been taught a set of skills that will enable me to pursue careers in a wide range of setting including NHS, private sector, the third sector and social enterprise. I have chosen to go down the social enterprise route and set up a company that will be offering respite/daytime activities that are centred on what the person wants and not what the provider can deliver. It will follow the philosophy of '*Valuing People*' but also try to address the aims of '*Valuing People Now*' by supporting people with self employment and supported employment (including voluntary work).

# A Real Connection

- On a personal level I will make sure the future is bright and positive for people with a learning disability by following the lessons taught to me by a man I had the privilege to spend a lot of time with. This person didn't realise that he was teaching me the values and beliefs that would eventually lead me to becoming a support worker and then to go on to do my nursing training, he was just being himself. He has been without doubt the most influential figure in my life and my own parents would not disagree with that statement. He was my uncle Tony and he was Downs Syndrome, he was also my hero and my idol throughout his life. He was the most loving and caring person but was very aware of his learning disability, although he did not let it limit him in his life. He had all the qualities that you would want to see in a support worker or qualified nurse and I have not got a clue what I would be doing with my life if it wasn't for him.



# Our five winners are:

1. Sean Ledington University of Wolverhampton
2. Tracy March University of Nottingham
3. Anthony Green Bangor University
4. Martin Foster University of Cumbria
5. Hayley Madden University of Cumbria