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**NEWS RELEASE**

**GARY ANDREWS, ASPIRE, EAST RENFREWSHIRE SERVICE ANNOUNCED AS WINNER AT SCOTTISH CARE AWARDS 2020**

Local man Gary Andrews has been recognised at a prestigious evening awards ceremony celebrating the best of the independent care at home and housing support sector.

Gary, who accesses support from the Aspire East Renfrewshire Service won the ***Outstanding Achievement***category at the Scottish Care Awards 2020. This award celebrates the lives of individuals and their continued achievements whilst being supported at home, whether they have overcome difficulties, tried something new, accomplished something they didn’t think they could or taken steps to enhance their lives or those of others in the community.

Gary was announced as the surprise winner of the ***Outstanding Achievement Award*** at an online Awards Ceremony hosted by presenter, columnist and Pop Idol winner, Michelle McManus on 9 October.

**Tracey Watt from Aspire, who nominated Gary** said:

*“Gary has more recently moved into a home of his and in an area of his choice, which has greatly improved Gary’s outlook on life and self-esteem. He is building on his skills and is very hopeful of securing employment in the very near future.*

*Gary attends cooking class within Aspire services twice weekly and is enjoying this. Gary has a passion for cooking and this is clear from the meals he produces. Gary has now taken a lead role in the cookery class and plans the following week’s class along with the facilitator. Gary has learned how to budget plan for the cooking ingredients so that he knows how much to buy and if he can afford them as well as researching the nutritional value and how healthy the food is.*

*Gary helps others as much as he can and is very well liked and respected. Gary is hoping to become a peer mentor within Aspire in the hope of gaining the skills required to eventually pursue a career in social care as he can now see this is an achievable goal for his future. He is now passionate about sharing his own lived-experience to help others turn their lives around.”*

The awards have been hailed a huge success in recognising individuals, teams and companies, who are delivering care at an incredibly high standard in an era of challenging budgets and within an increasingly demanding work environment.

**ENDS**

*Notes for Editors*

**For more information on Scottish Care’s work and the National Care at Home and Housing Support Conference, Exhibition and Awards visit**[**www.scottishcare.org**](https://scottishcare.createsend1.com/t/j-l-mzhhul-l-y/)

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