

National Awards success for Heantun Chief Executive



Sara Woodall, Chief Executive of Heantun Housing Association, part of the Accord Group, has scooped the Senior Manager Award at the National Learning Disabilities & Autism Awards.

The Awards, held at the ICC in Birmingham last week, celebrate excellence in the support for people with learning disabilities and pays tribute to those individuals or organisations who excel in providing quality care.

Chair of Heantun, Jon Crockett, certainly believes the Award went to the right person. He explains: *“This is just one example of Sara’s incredible leadership, Sara has been the inspirational driving force behind Old Tree Nursery, a garden, plant and fresh produce nursery based in Wolverhampton and run by students with learning difficulties. The nursery faced closure back in early 2015 Sara stepped in to save this magical place from closure, securing a long term lease from the Council and the nursery is going from strength to strength as well as providing the students with great personal development opportunities.*

Chris Handy, Chief Executive of the Accord Group, was delighted with this national win: *“Sara is truly inspirational. She understands what is important to people and she is a shining example of how really good managers set the tone and get the culture of a service right. Sara’s high level of expertise, exceptional leadership skills, and great support for colleagues results in a manager who shows vision in developing high quality services across the board. It is fitting that Sara should be recognised on a national platform in this way.”*

Previous winners at the National Learning Disabilities & Autism Awards include Mencap and Great Ormond Street Hospital. This year’s awards saw care and health organisations gather from across the country for a glittering ceremony hosted by TV personality, Christopher Biggins. Expressing her delight at winning, Sara Woodall said: *“It is a great honour to win this award and it means so much to me that we have been recognised for the great work that my team do to support people of all ages with Learning Disabilities and through a positive commitment to person centred support.”*