



## Residents enjoy first Local Conversation in Longbenton Community Recognition Awards

The glitz of Hollywood came to Longbenton, North Tyneside, when residents celebrated the Local Conversation in Longbenton Community Recognition Awards.

The awards, known locally by as the Longbenton Oscars, were an opportunity to recognise all that is happening in the area through the People's Health Trust-funded Local Conversation in Longbenton.

A total of 16 awards were handed out on the evening including: Making a Difference in the Community, Social Action Project and Highest Number of Volunteer Hours.

More than 100 volunteers and residents involved in the project attended the awards ceremony at the Longbenton Community Centre.

The event was also attended by the Chief Executive of People's Health Trust John Hume and Director of Grant Programmes David Jones, Chief Executive of North Tyneside Council Patrick Melia, North Tyneside Council's Director of Public Health Wendy Burke, North Tyneside's Mayor Norma Redfearn and Deputy Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear Major Eric Ingram.

All of the guests enjoyed a Christmas dinner, and tables were decorated with centrepieces created by project members.

Julie Cruddas, Development Director at Justice Prince CIC, said: "We spoke to the steering group about how we could best keep people motivated during the Christmas period and we decided to invite all of the groups to come together at one time to recognise the contribution of volunteers.

"It was absolutely amazing, and everybody on the estate is absolutely buzzing off it."

John Hume, Chief Executive of People's Health Trust, said: "It was wonderful to be invited to such a brilliant event, and see all of the different groups involved in the Local Conversation in Longbenton together.

"Through the Local Conversation in Longbenton, residents are doing some great work locally, and it is great that their hard work has been recognised at this awards ceremony."

North Tyneside Council's Director of Public Health, Wendy Burke, said: "The Local Conversation Recognition Awards was an excellent event organised by local people to reward volunteers for the fantastic work they do in their community.

"It was a pleasure to attend to find out more about the work that is going on in Longbenton, led by local people to improve community cohesion and outcomes for the people of the Longbenton Estate.

“Work of this nature supported and funded by People’s Health Trust is a great example of how best to make a difference at community level and to address inequalities. I applaud their work as the Director of Public Health for North Tyneside.”

Funding for the Conversation in Longbenton has been awarded to Longbenton-based organisation Justice Prince CIC by People’s Health Trust - using money raised by HealthRespect through The Health Lottery.

The project involves supporting residents to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood, putting residents at the heart of community initiatives so that they take control of the design, development and delivery of local change.

ENDS

### **Media contacts**

For media enquiries about People’s Health Trust or the Local Conversations programme, please contact Anna Mauremootoo on 020 7749 9105 / [anna.mauremootoo@peopleshealthtrust.org.uk](mailto:anna.mauremootoo@peopleshealthtrust.org.uk)

For media enquiries about Justice Prince CIC, please call 0191 266 1717.

### **Notes for editors:**

**Justice Prince** is a CIC set up in 2006 to support active engagement, participation and involvement in the most excluded communities in the North East of England.  
<http://www.justiceprince.co.uk>

**People’s Health Trust** is an independent charity addressing health inequalities across Great Britain. It works closely with each Community Interest Company distributing grants.  
[www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk](http://www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk)

**The Local Conversations programme** is a neighbourhood-led initiative developed by People’s Health Trust. The Trust, which works with HealthRespect society lottery to raise money through The Health Lottery, requires local organisations to support local people to take control of the design, development and delivery of the local initiatives.

**HealthRespect** is a Community Interest Company committed to raising money to address health inequalities in Newcastle, Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland.  
[www.healthrespectcic.org.uk](http://www.healthrespectcic.org.uk)

**The Health Lottery** is operated for and on behalf of 51 Community Interest Companies across England, Scotland and Wales, all holding society lottery licenses issued by the Gambling Commission. [www.healthlottery.co.uk](http://www.healthlottery.co.uk)