

Peter Scott Award 2021 – Angela Good, South Workington Youth Partnership

It's a combination of what Angela has achieved for her community in Workington, plus the quiet and humble way in which she does it, that makes her a worthy recipient of the Peter Scott Award 2021.

Angela is the sixth person to receive the award, from the Francis C Scott Charitable Trust (FCST) for 'an outstanding contribution to charity'.

The FCST gives over £1 million a year to organisations in Cumbria, and those on the border with Lancashire. They, like Angela, believe that steadfast and long-term support is the best way to make an impact. An example of this is that Angela is still someone vulnerable young people she's helped in the past turn to later in life for advice and a non-judgemental listening ear.

Angela receives the award following an incredible year supporting her community during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Angela mobilised a significant response from the two rooms occupied by the South Workington Youth Partnership - a youth, disability and community charity. Thanks to Angela and her team of dedicated volunteers SWYP rapidly became a food redistribution unit, and Covid response centre for Moorclose and the surrounding area. They also continued with online alternatives to the daily community youth work – making an invaluable difference during this testing time to so many families.

It is not just her significant and sustained Covid response that's earned Angela the Peter Scott Award. It also recognises her many decades of service which began when she first stepped in to help her community, as a fledgling youth worker, over 30 years ago. Angela says three weeks after getting involved with her daughter's Girl Guides Rainbow group she was asked to take over. Similarly, she took on the responsibility for her church's youth group when the leader retired.

This led to success with an application for her first paid, professional youth worker role at Great Clifton and the start of her journey with the FCST. Angela was then appointed youth worker at South Workington Youth Partnership in 2010 and saw it through a challenging three years. Ultimately, and testament to her work, she went on to gain charitable status for the SWYP. She now combines two manager roles as she recently became the Community Centre manager – and has a very hands-on presence.

As Angela explains:

"I hadn't long been the Community Centre manager just before Covid started. I'm also the manager of the South Workington Youth Partnership which does youth work and runs a disability project every evening. During lockdown we were delivering to 2,000 people a week, covering 450 miles, as well as looking after our disabled people and running our youth project virtually. That included checking in each morning and night with all our young people, there was a race each day to be the first to say good morning and we had some fun sleepovers and Saturday cooking sessions."

Angela is quick to give credit to her volunteers, one who has been with her since she began in youth work, as she says:

"We couldn't have done what we did during the Pandemic without all the volunteers and everybody who has supported us including the local supermarkets. We all worked tirelessly to see that everyone in and around Workington was fed and looked after while in isolation from coronavirus. We did it, and I do, because people need help, and that's what it's all about."

Described as having a heart the size of the estate, Angela has a firm hand on discipline and behaviour. She is an incredibly driven individual who has transformed a cold and disused community building, and its outdoor spaces, into a vibrant youth centre. She has extended the provision of developmental and stimulating youth activity to those with complex and multiple needs from across a significant geography. And has taken to driving a minibus herself for pickups and drop offs to ensure access. Her can-do and understated approach belies the fierce passion and energy which she brings to the provision of inclusive youth services to groups who are often excluded from these experiences and opportunities.

Her award recognises many, many years, if not decades of service by an individual to help the most vulnerable. Fittingly it is given to commemorate the legacy of the Trust's founder, Peter Scott CBE, Chairman of the Provincial Insurance Company. He too was someone who was passionate about the area and its people.