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More award success for inspirational nurse

An inspirational nurse who came to the career later in life has won the national title of Primary Care Nurse of the Year.

Adrian Anim, who works in the field of adult learning disability for South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, was the judges' unanimous choice for the honour at the inaugural Primary Care Awards 2015, which were presented in London.

The awards, hosted by Primary Care Today and its sister title The Pharmacist, celebrate trailblazers in their field and pioneers of integrated working. The criteria for the category of Primary Care Nurse of the Year included demonstrating outstanding patient care, good links with GPs and wider community health services, a passion for public health, and leadership in practice.

Mr Anim's work has included carrying out a pilot programme to improve the oral health of people with a learning disability by working closely with primary care dental colleagues to ensure that reasonable adjustments were considered to enable them to access dental services.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive Steve Williamson said: "I am delighted that Adrian has been given such a prestigious award. He is a fantastic role model for his profession. He is compassionate, caring and innovative in his practice as he works to support people with a learning disability to achieve positive outcomes in their lives."

Mr Anim, a former painter and decorator who went to university at the age of 40 to do his nursing degree, said: "I am still in shock. I haven't been in nursing very long and the other finalists had done so much so it is amazing and a great honour to have won this award. I left school with no qualifications so going to university was a big deal for me and I found it really difficult at times but the hard work paid off and I am now doing a job I love and which is incredibly rewarding. Hopefully, my experience might show other people that it's never too late to change your life."

The award is the latest in a string of successes for Mr Anim, of Newcastle, who works as a community learning disability nurse in Gateshead. This summer, he was a recipient of the prestigious Heath Award, given to a select number of Northumbria University graduates for their efforts in both practice and theory while training to become nurses and midwives. He also received an award at his graduation for best academic student and, in 2014, he was a finalist in the Learning Disabilities category of the Student Nursing Times Student Awards.

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Pictured above: Primary Care Nurse of the Year Adrian Anim, second from right, with, left to right, Unite's lead professional officer Obi Amadi, Stephanie Davies, winner of Practice Nurse outside of a GP setting, and Carl Baker, of Vodaphone, which supported the nursing categories in the awards

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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