



5<sup>th</sup> August 2015

PRESS RELEASE

## Thumbs Up from Autism Wessex

**Autism Wessex, the regional charity supporting people affected by autism, has awarded Linda Green, Co-ordinator of Christchurch Angels, a voluntary befriending service, a 'Thumbs Up Award' for making a positive difference to people affected by autism.**

The Autism Wessex Thumbs Up Awards have been designed to recognise organisations and individuals making a positive difference to the lives of people affected by autism.

Linda from Christchurch Angels was nominated for the award by Kim Whitfield, Information and Advice Assistant at Autism Wessex. "I felt that Linda deserved an award for being so helpful and matching some amazing community volunteers with some of our clients".

Christchurch Angels, led by Christchurch Community Partnership, is a voluntary befriending service for residents who require short term help in times of difficulty. The aim is to support people in the Christchurch area who don't have a network or family or friends to give practical support.

Kim continues, "I have contacted Linda at Christchurch Angels on a couple of occasions when our helpline has received calls from people feeling isolated and needing support to get back on track in the Christchurch area. They have always responded quickly and been clear on how they can help. They have provided a volunteer, who had experience working with people with autism, to befriend one of our clients through a difficult period. They have also matched one of our clients with a volunteer to help them through a difficult medical appointment; the volunteer even

met them before the appointment which shows a great understanding for people on the autism spectrum”.

Linda Green from Christchurch Angels said “I was really touched to receive this award; it is lovely when we can respond to support people who have more complex needs. Being able to help depends on people in the community coming forward to give up some of their valuable time to be a volunteer Christchurch Angels, it is the volunteers who are the life blood of the service“.

If you want to show your appreciation for someone in the local community who has made a positive difference to someone affected by autism you can nominate them for a Thumbs Up award by calling 01305 213135 or email [advice@autismwessex.org.uk](mailto:advice@autismwessex.org.uk)

Visit [www.autismwessex.org.uk](http://www.autismwessex.org.uk) for further information.

## ENDS



**Caption:** Linda with her 'Thumbs Up' certificate.

Press enquiries to:

Sarah Thomas, PR & Marketing Officer

01202 703192 | [sarah.thomas@autismwessex.org.uk](mailto:sarah.thomas@autismwessex.org.uk)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

### **Autism Wessex**

Founded in 1968 by parents of children with autism, Autism Wessex is the regional charity providing high quality specialist services for people affected by autism and associated difficulties across the counties of Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Somerset. Our vision is of a world where people with autism are active citizens enjoying maximum independence and a good quality of life.

With three main areas of activity, Autism Wessex provides Portfield School for education services, Community Wessex for social care services and a range of Advocacy and Advice services. For more information, visit [www.autismwessex.org.uk](http://www.autismwessex.org.uk).

### **Christchurch Angels**

Christchurch Angels, led by Christchurch Community Partnership, is a voluntary befriending service for residents who require short term help in times of difficulty. <http://www.christchurchcommunitypartnership.org.uk/ourprojects/christchurchangels/>