

5 CARE ACCOLADES 2011 - SPECIAL COMMENDATION FOR RESIDENTIAL CHILDCARE SERVICES (AN131-2011)

Residential child care services were recognised at this year's Care Accolades. A special commendation under The Employer Award, Investing in the Workforce, Developing Practice, was presented to staff and young people from residential children's services in Dundee at an event held in Paisley Town Hall in June.

The annual Care Accolades event recognises best practice throughout the social service sector in Scotland. The special commendation for the residential child care services training project recognises the work the five young persons units in Dundee have undertaken to build strong reflective teams which communicate effectively with young people.

Video Enhanced Reflective Practice (V.E.R.P.) was used as part of a training programme for staff. Video recordings of real life daily activity in the residential units helped to develop and strengthen the relationships between staff and young people. Overall the programme gave participants the opportunity to reflect, achieve goals and share practice and allowed staff to acknowledge success in an atmosphere of learning together.

The programme also facilitated openness and young people were encouraged to critically evaluate staff working in all five units.

The final evaluation became an important and empowering feature of this programme and involved young people and staff evaluating their skills at pre and post-course stages. By participating in this reflective programme, teams are much more comfortable with critically analysing their communication and relationships with each other and the young people they work with.