



CARE & REPAIR

IMPROVING HOMES IMPROVING LIVES

Home repairs, adaptations and improvements
for the over 60s and disabled people

www.wecr.org.uk | 0300 323 0700

[For immediate release]

Bristol 16th June 2015

Local home improvement agency receives national award

WE Care & Repair caseworker named as npower Health Through Warmth Champion 2015 at ceremony in the House of Lords.

Carole Rendall from Bristol-based organisation WE Care & Repair has been named as npower Health Through Warmth Champion 2015 at the Home Improvement Agency Awards 2015.

WE Care & Repair is the Home Improvement Agency (HIA) for the West of England, working with older and disabled people to enable them to continue living independently. In a competition run by Foundations, the national co-ordinating body for HIAs, caseworker Carole Rendall pipped caseworkers from Aster Living and St Vincent's Homecare & Repair in the final run-off.

The HIA and Handyperson Awards ceremony took place on 15 June at the House of Lords and was hosted by Lord Best. It was attended by senior representatives from the housing and health sectors including housing minister Brandon Lewis, Care & Repair England CEO Sue Adams and Carl Petrokofsky from Public Health England.

Carole was commended for her significant contribution to improving the lives of vulnerable people living in cold homes by accessing the npower Health Through Warmth Hardship Fund. This fund offers help to people in England and Wales who have long term illnesses and are finding it hard to fund heating systems repairs and replacements, and insulation in their homes.

Following the announcement of the award, Lindsay Hay, WE Care & Repair Casework Service Manager, said: "Carole really understands the importance of keeping homes warm, particularly for those who may be spending all day, every day in their home, affected by poor health or limited mobility. We're so pleased that her contribution has been recognised."

WE Care & Repair can be contacted on 0300 323 0700 or info@wecr.org.uk.

(Ends)

To interview Lindsay Hay of WE Care & Repair, please contact:

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About WE Care & Repair

WE Care & Repair is an award winning Home Improvement Agency, helping the over 60s and disabled people of any age to continue living independently. As a local not-for-profit organisation working across Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire they have been maintaining homes and providing advice for 28 years. They have a range of services including a large repairs and adaptations service, practical support to help people return home after leaving hospital, Housing Options information and advice for those thinking of moving on or maintaining their home for the future, and Home Independence Centres in Bristol, Weston-super-Mare and Yate.

What is Foundations?

Foundations is the national body for home improvement agencies and handyperson services. Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) are local organisations around the country that help vulnerable homeowners and tenants to maintain and adapt their homes. Foundations provides support to the home improvement agency sector through:

- developing and expanding home improvement agency services
- providing advice, training and support to home improvement agency staff
- representing the sector in discussions with government and other stakeholders

wwwFOUNDATIONS.UK.COM

What are Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs)?

- Home improvement and handyperson service providers are local organisations dedicated to helping older people, people with disabilities, and vulnerable people to live in safety and with dignity in their own homes.
- Services are focused on ensuring that existing housing is fit for purpose and that vulnerable people, predominantly homeowners, are able to continue living independently for as long as possible.
- There are nearly 200 home improvement and handyperson service providers in England, covering over 80% of local authorities.
- HIA services are operated by a broad cross-section of organisations, including housing associations, local authorities, and a number who have been independent charities for some time.
- Together home improvement and handyperson services engage with over 250,000 people every year.

How can I find my nearest Home Improvement Agency (HIA)?

Visit wwwFOUNDATIONS.UK.COM and use the searchable directory, or phone Foundations on 0300 124 0315.