



Safer Poole Partnership News release

25 March 2019

For immediate release

John Jay Shield awarded to incredible local woman and her charity.

Amanda Gulliver and her charity ACTS FAST – a local organisation which aims to relieve the distress of families, parents, carers and children who have been the victim of sexual abuse - are this year's winner of the John Jay Shield, thanks to her tireless commitment to her charity.

Mayor Sean Gabriel, presented Amanda with the shield at an awards ceremony hosted by the Safer Poole Partnership at the Poole Civic Centre on Thursday 21st March 2019.

The John Jay Shield is a community safety award given every year by the Safer Poole partnership to the individual or group judged to have contributed the most to making Poole safer over the previous year.

Acts Fast stands for Abused Children's Trauma Support, Family Advice & Strategy Team. Amanda is CEO and Co-Founder of this charity. Their aim is to ensure that protective parent/carers are freed of the guilt, shame and isolation experienced when their child discloses sexual abuse and to reduce the impact of the trauma. 'We stop and listen while the world carries on'.

Upon receipt of the award Amanda said, " 'It is such a wonderful privilege to be the proud owner of the John Jay Shield for the next year .To be part of the history and to be recognised, truly humbles me. It gives me the much needed strength to continue on the difficult path, in shining the light on Child Sexual Abuse, along with providing, and highlighting, the necessity for ongoing emotional, and practical support, for the supportive parents and families. Thank you for recognising and helping me highlight these important issues' "

Dr Andrew Mayers, a psychologist at Bournemouth University and Chair of Acts Fast, said "We are delighted that Mandy has been recognised in this way. She has been instrumental in establishing and building this vital charity. Because of her tireless work, Acts Fast is now supporting many families devastated by the impact of child sexual abuse. We are very proud of her"

Superintendent Jared Parkin, Chair of the Safer Poole Crime and Disorder partnership said, "It was a great honour to be on the judging panel for this year's John Jay awards. This year's nominations were of a very high quality making the judging a very difficult task. All the recipients hard work in support of the community of Poole is hugely commendable and very humbling to see the efforts that go to support their charities. Amanda Gulliver, and Acts Fast, were very worthy winners in an excellent field of nominations".

Amanda was selected from six shortlisted nominees by a panel of judges from Safer Poole and Dorset Police.

Karen and Kevin Norton, from Helping Hands were awarded a runner-up certificate for their amazing work with the Poole refuge, which supports victims of domestic abuse. Having only launched a year ago they have already raised £11,000 and transformed the Donations Room at the refuge and more recently opened up a sensory room to provide a safe space for the children to use for therapeutic play. A sensory room is a specially designed room which combines a range of stimuli to help individuals develop and engage their senses.

Three certificates of recognition were awarded to the following:

- Poole Food Bank – Providing food parcels from several different sites across Poole. They have provided over 2000 food parcels this year and supported 38 families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
- Poole Town Pastors – set up in the summer of 2018 this group of volunteers offer additional support to outreach work helping vulnerable young people and adults in Poole Town Centre on a Saturday afternoon.
- Beki Nightingall and the Liberty Project - The Liberty Project is the safe house for potential adult victims of human trafficking and modern day slavery. Beki is the Liberty Project Leader but has played an integral role in raising awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking across Poole and the rest of the County.
- Chris Beale has been the Chief Executive Officer for Poole Council for Voluntary Service (PCVS) since 1999. During Chris' time at PCVS he has been instrumental in supporting the community safety agenda and the work of Safer Poole for many years. Chris played a critical role in building and maintaining relationships between Safer Poole, the council and parts of the community. Chris also received a special award from Safer Poole and the Borough of Poole Council as a Special Recognition of his 30 years of dedicated work within the borough.