

press release



Falkirk Council

21 December 2011

TOP MARKS FOR NURSERY WORKER CHARMAINE

A NURSERY worker at Bonnybridge Primary School has won a top training award.

Charmaine Hogg, from Grangemouth, was named “Service Apprentice of the Year” at Skills Development Scotland’s Modern Apprenticeship Awards held in Glasgow’s Science Centre.

Charmaine (22) started her training through Falkirk Council’s employment and training unit in 2007. She completed her modern apprenticeship this year. Locally she’s won an “outstanding achievement” award from Falkirk Provost Pat Reid - and another council award for completing her level three qualification in Early Years Care and Education.

Council chiefs say Charmaine’s award is a great recognition for her hard work and for the quality support and training it offers local young people.

The Council’s economic strategy and development convener, Councillor Adrian Mahoney, said: “I am absolutely delighted for Charmaine. She’s demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to learning and has made an excellent contribution at work. She’s a real inspiration.

“This award comes at a time were Falkirk Council has increased its commitment to delivering Modern Apprenticeship opportunities in response to the current youth unemployment crisis. There are lots of success stories like Charmaine – but lots of other young people we need to help and support.”

Modern Apprenticeships provide an excellent opportunity for young people to gain invaluable work based skills, qualifications and earn while they learn in these current challenging financial times. Young people can find out about Modern Apprenticeships through their school – or by contacting the Council’s employment and training unit directly on 01324 504400. You can also email: etu@falkirk.gov.uk

Councillor Mahoney added: “Falkirk Council is currently delivering a range of local training. As well as supporting 330 Modern Apprentices this year, the Council has funded a range of pre-apprenticeship programmes directly contributing to a four per cent improvement in the ‘positive destinations’ for school leavers in our area.

“We’re currently delivering the highest level of engagement in training for school leavers in Scotland – and that’s impressive. But we know, with the crisis we’re facing in youth employment just now, that we have to do all we can to help.”

The local authority offers a wide range of training and employment opportunities for young people – either in-house or with local companies and organisations.

Trainee opportunities currently include places in: construction trades, IT, green-keeping, civil engineering, horticulture, lab technicians, childcare, social care, finance and business administration.

More than 95 per cent of all apprentices who complete their training gain full-time permanent positions.

The Council's employment and training manager, Pamela Smith, said she was thrilled to hear of Charmaine's success in the MA Awards. She said: "We see many young people blossom when they're given good opportunities and training. Charmaine has been an excellent trainee and her natural ability has shone through.

"She's become a valuable member of the team at the nursery and showed great initiative. I know her input is really valued by colleagues and I'm delighted that all her hard work has been recognised both locally and nationally."

The 10th annual Modern Apprenticeship Awards, sponsored by HP, showcased the achievements of employers, apprentices and organisations who have demonstrated initiative, enterprise and outstanding commitment to developing Scotland's skills and economy.

Charmaine said: "I'm one of eight children, so have always had a caring role. Working with the children at the nursery, in particular those with additional needs, is very rewarding. I hope to carry on working at the nursery now that I have finished my apprenticeship and am fully qualified."

If you're a local employer and would like to work with the Council to offer training places for young people, contact the Council on 01324 504400 or log onto www.falkirk.gov.uk/backingfalkirksfuture

Falkirk Council 21/12/11