

Well Done to Paddy Small, OTI, Shannon Clinic Medium Secure Unit, on winning the WOW Category at the Chairman's Awards 2019 at the Belfast City Hall.



Shannon Clinic is the Northern Ireland Regional Medium Secure Unit (MSU), linking with mental health services throughout Northern Ireland. It provides in-patient services for adults with mental illness who require intensive mental health treatment and rehabilitation within a structured, secure and therapeutic environment.

The need for an accredited qualification in Horticulture for our patients/students was an unmet need for many years but Paddy displayed the characteristics of someone who was motivated, committed and enthusiastic about taking this forward.

Paddy came to Shannon and had an interest in Horticulture and has been instrumental in its success with his motivation and commitment. At all times, he promotes a holistic model of care promoting a recovery approach, working in partnership with users, carers and with a range of agencies to reduce stigma and improve the quality of life for the students in Shannon Clinic.

The aim of the programme is to deliver a horticulture course to students which will help maximize their opportunities to gain meaningful employment on discharge. The course lasts approximately 12 months duration with units to be completed and taken at a pace conducive to the student's needs. There are currently six students who will complete the course in September 2019.

The manner that Paddy interacts with his students inspires them to become involved in Horticulture. He has excellent interpersonal skills that make patients feel at ease and valued. He demonstrates the Trust's core values:

- Dignity and Respect,
- Openness and Trust,
- Leading Edge Learning and Development, and
- Accountability.

Patient Feedback: *Gentleman, brilliant person, sound, good teacher, a wealth of knowledge, easy going, a great help, loves his work, pleasure to work with, good crack, pleasant to talk to, never a bad word to say about him, nothing is a bother, will work towards getting things done.*

The students have planted 10,000 native species of trees on the Knockbracken site, 4,000 sponsored by the then patients fund and recently assisting the Forestry Commission to plant 6,000 trees for the Queens Commonwealth jubilee celebrations.

The learning for the students from pruning foliage around the grounds is that they can identify the native species of trees onsite and carry out a test paper for unit 150 identifying the same.

Staff Feedback: *Flexible, helpful across the clinic when required, easy going, approachable, therapeutic working relationship with patients, speaks to patients in a respectful manner, builds on the patients strengths.*

Carers receive the end product of the work and feedback to carers on how the students are getting on.

Paddy promotes positive risk taking in an environment where it would be easier to focus on the physical security and less on relational security. His therapeutic alliance with patients is measured by the fact that there haven't been any incidents when students are taking part in Horticulture

- **Spring:** He fills baskets for carers, other Wards on site and staff. Landscaping on the site.
- **Summer:** Amenity Horticulture works on site.
- **Autumn:** Paddy and his students regularly observe and record for pest disease and disorder and care for the health of the trees
- **Winter:** At Christmas time, he involves his students in gathering materials around the site and making for their relatives and resale to staff and others on site.

The Course is evaluated by internal and external verifiers and the Quality Network Review.

Paddy is a very committed, person centered member of staff and the work he has personally put into developing a Training Programme for the students is well deserving of the award. The high volume of students participating in the programme over many years highlights the value that the students place on it.