

Lynne's life experience a winning 'inspiration'

By Pat Scott

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A WOMAN who guides local families through some of the happiest and saddest times in their lives received a top accolade at the Inspiring Aberdeenshire awards event last week.

Senior registrar Lynne Driver was among the large group of employees, volunteers and community group representatives who were recognised at the annual ceremony. Mrs Driver received one of four new "directors awards" for employees who have shown how their hard work and achievement makes Aberdeenshire the best it can be.

Mother-of-two Mrs driver, who lives in Glass, near Huntly, joined the local authority as a school leaver 31 years ago working in Woodhill House's payroll section.

A year later she returned to the council office in Huntly to a clerical assistant/registrar post and has been in the registrar team for the past 25 years.

Since October 2014 she has been leading Aberdeenshire's team of 18 registrars in an area which extends from Stonehaven to Peterhead and Huntly.

The citation for Mrs Driver read: "As senior registrar, Lynne has a strong

commitment to providing excellent customer service to the people of Aberdeenshire at some of the most significant moments."

One of Mrs Diver's primary responsibilities is the registration of births, marriages and deaths and the citation said that customer feedback evidenced her ability to treat every client as an individual and with respect.

"Marriage and naming ceremonies are tailored to meet the expectations of the celebration and death registrations are dealt with calmly and sensitively."

Mrs Driver is chairwoman of the councils registration training team and has worked closely with the National Records of Scotland. She has trained and mentored colleagues toward achieving the certificate of law and practice in registration. She is a key member of the heritage education partnership, a group which produces learning materials.

The citation closed: "Mrs Driver's strong commitment to improvement

is highlighted by the fact that the annual accuracy rate of registration in Aberdeenshire is amongst the highest in Scotland."

The award came as a surprise to Mrs Driver who, despite knowing she was on the short list of three, modestly expected it to be awarded to another employee.

Attending one of his first engagements as Provost, Hamish Vernal said: "We have heard from Aberdeenshire school pupils who have the brightest of futures ahead of them, from community leaders who continually inspire others to achieve their potential and from employees who put their all into their roles to go not just an extra mile, but miles and miles above and beyond their duties.

"This event gives us all an opportunity to meet those who put their hearts and souls into not only the things they are good at, but also those who are smashing down the barriers life so often throws up in front of us.

Registrars can help with family research

A FASCINATING aspect of Mrs Driver's work is helping families with genealogy research and she urged anyone embarking on such a project to make use of the

service provided by the registrars whom she described as being the best point of contact and with vast experience of using the records held.

