



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **GHA Nurse Nominated for ‘UK Diabetes’ Inspire Awards**

GHA nurse, Ms Cynthia Maoko was recently nominated by Diabetes UK, a leading nationwide healthcare charity in Britain, for one of its prestigious annual Inspire Awards. Diabetes UK, a voluntary entity, supports the care and treatment of persons living with Diabetes, organises outdoor recreational summer camps for affected children and carries out numerous promotional and fund raising activities.

Ms Maoko has been taking local children to the UK camps for a number of years on behalf of the GHA, and in conjunction with the Gibraltar Diabetes Association. The camps are an invaluable opportunity for children to meet other children with whom they can relate and share their experiences. Last July, Ms Maoko responded to an urgent request from Diabetes UK due to a shortage of Paediatric Diabetes Specialist Nurses (PDSNs) required for a one-week Type 1 camp in Port Talbot, Wales.

She said: “They were about to cancel due to the lack of specialised nurses to lead the event. I put my name forward to help them out and was enlisted for the task. I flew out to Cardiff, without expecting that I would end up with this nomination. The trip was made possible by Diabetes UK, with the support of the Gibraltar Health Authority.”

In May, Diabetes UK informed her that she had been nominated for an award for going the extra mile to help children -- the only person outside the Wales region to be proposed. Ms Maoko, who has been working as a PDSN at the GHA for the past eight years, said she was pleasantly surprised by the nomination and that she felt humbled after meeting so many of the volunteers who do a great deal of work for children with diabetes in Britain. She said it is important to promote greater public awareness of diabetes, both Type 1 and Type 2 in the community, given that there is still much misunderstanding about the condition, and that attending the award ceremony at the weekend in Cardiff had been inspirational for her.



Ms Maoko added: “Apart from networking and discovering what is new in the world of diabetes, it was also an opportunity to unofficially benchmark our GHA Paediatric Diabetes Services against those offered by Wales NHS Trusts, and I am pleased to say we are doing a good job here in Gibraltar. The best thing about the nomination was the sense of satisfaction for receiving recognition for the work that we do to help children with diabetes. I feel greatly honoured and privileged - it has been one of the highlights of my nursing career.”

Minister for Health Care and Justice, the Honourable Neil F Costa MP spoke of Cynthia’s award nomination, he said: “I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Cynthia on her nomination. I am delighted that her fantastic work and commitment to children living with diabetes has been recognised by Diabetes UK - she should feel extremely proud. This is testament to the quality of professional staff that we have at the Gibraltar Health Authority, delivering excellent clinical services and always going that extra mile.”