

Corwen-based charity's chief officer in 'disbelief and shock' at news she is set to receive an MBE

[Arron Evans](#) 9th October



THE chief officer of a Denbighshire-based charity is 'in disbelief and shock' after being told she is set to be appointed MBE in the upcoming Queen's Birthday Honours list.

This year's list, originally due to be published in June, was postponed in order to consider nominations for people playing crucial roles during the first months of the

COVID-19 effort.

As a result of this, Margaret Sutherland from Carrog is set to be given the MBE honour for her services to the Corwen community.

The 61-year-old is chief officer of the South Denbighshire Community Partnership (SDCP) charity based at the Canolfan Ni Centre in Corwen.

But, Margaret, who was told three weeks ago she would be appointed MBE, is keen to point out that handling the pandemic has very much been a team effort from all involved at SDCP.

She said: " I very much see this as a recognition for the whole SDCP organisation from staff to trustees, volunteers, the organisations that we worked in partnership with and the local community who came together to protect the most vulnerable.

"Initially my reaction was one of disbelief, shock and then humbled and honoured to have been awarded an MBE. I honestly thought it was a scam when I received that first e-mail, but as weeks went on I started to believe it.

"Now that I'm over the shock, I would just like to thank the people who nominated me for this award. I am immensely proud of everything we have achieved together, but work goes on. There are still challenging times ahead, and SDCP will continue to take a pro-active

and supportive approach.

SDCP, which receives funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, serves Corwen and the surrounding villages of Glyndyfrdwy, Carrog, Cynwyd, Llandrillo, Gwyddelwern, Betws Gwerful Goch, Melin Y Wig and Bryneglwys.

Margaret and her SDCP team's response during COVID-19 has been to look at the strengths in their organisation, adapting services and using them to support the community, particularly older and vulnerable people.

Margaret has also set up a telephone befriending service and food deliveries for those living in food poverty. As a result, SDCP delivered 100 hot meals per week and has 260 people registered for support.

In addition to this, SDCP are working with other organisations to look at how they can provide similar essential services in the Llangollen area.

Due to the pandemic, it is unclear as to when this year's MBEs can attend Buckingham Palace.