

News

## £2m available to help tackle loneliness

CHARITY and community organisations tackling youth loneliness are being invited to apply for a share of £2 million to expand or enhance their support for young people. Eligible organisations can apply to the Co-op Foundation for funding to explore youth loneliness in greater depth, test youth-led innovations within their existing

provision and share their learning as part of the foundation's national Belong network. Applications close on September 26. Jim Cooke, head of the Co-op Foundation, said: "People can feel lonely at any age, with research showing young people are particularly affected. "The youth strand of the Building Connections Fund will help

bring young people together to come up with innovative solutions to tackling loneliness while also building their confidence and skills to strengthen their connections and sense of belonging." Successful applicants will be announced in December 2018, with funding available to support projects until March 2021. foundation@coop.co.uk



NOMINEE: Kuldip Bhamrah has won the Queen's Ambulance Service Medal for Distinguished Service

KULDIP RECOGNISED FOR HIS DEDICATION - AND SINGING

# Ambulance man up for Asian award

By STAFF REPORTER

AN ambulance technician has been named a finalist at the 18th annual Asian Achiever Awards.

Kuldip Bhamrah, who works from Leicester for East Midlands Ambulance Service (Emas), is nominated in the Achievement in Uniformed and Civil Service category.

Known as the "singing ambulance man", Kuldip has been serving the people of Leicestershire and Rutland for 36 years.

He was awarded the Queen's Ambulance Service Medal for Distinguished Service in 2017.

Beginning his ambulance career with the non-urgent Patient Transport Service in 1981, based at the then Wellford Road Ambulance Station, he has since qualified as an ambulance technician, working alongside paramedics to make clinical decisions.

He was the first Sikh to serve in Emas. Dedication to his role extends well beyond his work hours. He won an Emas chief executive's commendation for providing life-saving support to someone suffering a cardiac arrest in London while on holiday there.

His singing talents were put to good use in July when he joined Tony Hadley, Blue, UB40 and Beverley Knight to

record a charity single, the Beatles' With a Little Help from My Friends, to raise money for healthcare charities across the UK as part of the NHS's 70th birthday celebrations.

He said: "I can't help but sing at work because it is a job that makes me happy because I like caring for people."

"Singing to them also helps to relax patients - especially when I serenade them on the way to hospital."

Kuldip is one of 32 finalists in the awards, which will be presented at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London, on September 14.

The hosts for the evening are East-Enders actor Nitin Ganatra and Kiss-FM's DJ Neev Spencer.

The awards are hosted by Asian Business Publications Ltd (ABPL), the owner of Asian Voice and Gujarat Samachar.

ABPL chairman CB Patel said: "I am delighted to unveil the shortlist for this year's nominees - each of whom is singularly responsible for bringing the Asian community to the centre stage of British life."

"They are inspiring role models for us all and for future generations."

Other categories of award cover the arts, community service, sport and business. They will raise money for the charity Oracle Cancer.

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