

WSSCC cook serves up winning menu

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A West Sussex County Council cook has been named the best in South East.

Ismail Polat, from Crawley, was crowned the National Association of Care Catering (NACC) South East of England winner after his two course menu wowed judges at the regional event earlier this month.

Ismail, 39, works as a cook at New Tyne Resource Centre in Durrington, where – alongside three colleagues – he caters for the specialist nutritional needs of up to 40 people a day, including residents, day-centre customers and staff.

His win at the NACC regional final means he will now go on to compete on the national stage in June.

The NACC Care Cook of the Year competition challenges individuals who work within the care sector to create new and exciting recipes.

In the regional final, entrants were given just 90 minutes to prepare a two-course meal, main and dessert, that was suitable for customers in a care environment and met NACC nutritional guidelines, all with a maximum budget of £1.30 per person.

As part of Ismail's planning for the competition, he prepared the meal under the watchful gaze of some of the centre's customers who then tasted the dishes and gave it their own stamp of approval.

Simon Kral, New Tyne Resource Centre Manager, said: "We are delighted with the result.

"A lot of hard work has been put into this, with Ismail dedicating a lot of his spare time to developing and preparing his menu but it was all worthwhile.

"We are all very proud of his achievement."

John Figgins, West Sussex County Council Catering Service Manager, added: "Ismail's meticulous planning and the execution of his dishes on the day saw him emerge as a worthy winner from a field containing some of the best care cooks in the region.

"Ismail has been well supported by his manager and by members of the catering team, who assisted him ensuring his menu met the strict budget and the key nutritional targets.

"But it does come down to the performance on the day and Ismail delivered with gusto."

The national final will take place in Leatherhead on Wednesday, June 12.

Notes for editors

The New Tyne Resource Centre provides support for people with dementia in the Adur, Arun and Worthing area. Information about the centre can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk

The National Association of Care Catering (NACC) is an organisation that represents professionals providing catering to the care industry. For further information, visit the website at www.thenacc.co.uk