



PRESS RELEASE

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Inaugural National Personal Safety Awards Presented

The inaugural **National Personal Safety Awards** were presented on Saturday 15th November at the Suzy Lamplugh Trust's Fundraising Ball, which took place at the Riverside Park Plaza Hotel in London.

Hosted by Channel 4 News reporter, Samira Ahmed, the Awards recognised the achievements of organisations, workplaces and individuals around the country in promoting personal safety.

The first award to be presented was the **Safer School Award**, which was won by Heston Community School in Hounslow. The judges were impressed with the personal safety measures within the school, which include personal safety training for the School Council and all prefects, along with a rigorous programme of safer environment measures

The **Safer Community Award**, which was presented by Alan Beesley, Head of Marketing for sponsors Brighthouse, went to Wandsworth Council, Police and Fire Services. The award was accepted by Sue Yoxall from Wandsworth Council.

Working in partnership with the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, Wandsworth have extended and adapted their safety education schemes to include young people with a wide range of disabilities. The judges were impressed with the way that they had integrated personal safety into their Junior Citizens scheme.

Also shortlisted for the award were Belfast City Council Community Safety Warden Services.

The **Safer Workplace Award**, which was sponsored by the Royal Mail Group, recognised an employer who has made a real commitment to investing in personal safety and helping to reduce the risk of their employees facing violence and aggression at work.

The award, which was presented by the Director of Corporate Responsibility for the Royal Mail Group, Dr Steve Boorman, went to Hertfordshire County Council. It was accepted by Jenny Hambrook and John Boulter from the Council.

The judges felt that Hertfordshire County Council takes the personal safety of its staff very seriously. They were impressed by their regular reviews, extensive research and recognition of the risks facing lone workers.

Other nominees for the Safer Workplace Award were:

Connexions Kent & Medway; The Stroke Association; Probation Board for Northern Ireland; Merseytravel; Homes for Islington; Hertfordshire County Council and South Lanarkshire Council

The final award of the evening was presented to the individual who the judges believed has made the greatest contribution to personal safety in their school, community or workplace. The **Personal Safety Champion Award** was sponsored by Ila Security and presented by Account Director, Veronique Langlois.

The nominees for the personal safety champion were:

Linda Shanahan from Northumberland Fire & Rescue; Fiona Scott from the Highland Advocacy; Julie Richardson from Epilepsy Connections; Nick Tolson from National Churchwatch; Jeff Sterland and David Lindop from Derbyshire County Council; Tina Marshall from Argyll & Bute Council

.....And the winner was Tina Marshall. Tina, who was there to accept the award in person, has trained nearly two thousand of her colleagues in methods to reduce the risk of violence and aggression for people working in one of the most geographically

challenging areas in the country. She works closely with the Scottish Executive and the Strathclyde Police to help create a safer society in her part of the country.

Chief Executive of Suzy Lamplugh Trust, Steven Gauge, said:

“We couldn’t have been more pleased with the inaugural National Personal Safety Awards. The calibre of nominees was outstanding and the backing we received from sponsors and other corporate support was tremendous. We would really like to thank everyone who helped to make the Awards such a success and look forward to making this an annual event”.

Those who attended the Fundraising Ball were also treated to the talents of unique dance group, Flava, who were highlighted on Britain’s Got Talent, and entertained by comedian Steve Punt.

For more information about the National Personal Safety Awards, visit www.suzylamplugh.org/awards

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Notes to Editors:

Suzy Lamplugh Trust, works to raise awareness of the importance of personal safety in order to help people to avoid violence and aggression and live safer, more confident lives.

The Trust works alongside government, the police, the educational establishment, public bodies and the business sector to encourage safety wherever people may be at risk - in the home, at work, in public and in schools and colleges, on public transport and when travelling at home or abroad.

