



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **TRAINING AWARD WIN FOR SUFFOLK CARE AGENCY**

**12 October 2010**

A Suffolk care agency has been honoured with a prestigious National Training Award, recognising the company's commitment to training, learning and development in the workplace.

Christies Care is a specialist provider of carers who live-in full time with people in their own homes, providing round-the-clock care. It was presented with an East of England National Training Award for the way it trains carers for clients who have learning disabilities. They received their award at a gala dinner which took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, at Chilford Hall in Cambridge.

The training provided by Christies Care ensures its carers fully understand and are equipped to cope with the special needs of people with learning disabilities and have the opportunity to complete a nationally recognized Learning Disabilities Qualification.

Training Manager, Alison Hawkins said of the awards; "Our dedicated team work really hard to ensure all of our carers are fully trained before working with our clients, so it's fantastic to see their hard work recognised."

Mandy Boyce, Training & Learning Disabilities coordinator, who collected the award, added; "We have worked closely with the British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) to ensure our approach is appropriate to the needs of this client group."

Run on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) by UK Skills, the National Training Awards inspires and encourages UK industry to invest in training and development as a route to achieving outstanding organisational and individual

success. Winning an Award is recognition of best practice and provides a benchmark for standards of excellence in training in the UK.

Christies Care has invested in modern training facilities and accommodation for care assistants whilst they train at its Saxmundham headquarters in Suffolk and over the past two years has introduced a number of other specialist courses such as Stroke Awareness and Dementia, which it introduced after working with The Alzheimer's Society.

The award isn't the only prize awarded to Christies Care's training department. In 2009, trainer Helen Drain was a finalist in the 2009 'Ceretas Homecare Trainer of the Year' award and the team won the Training & Development prize at the Anglian Business Awards. In 2010, managing director Nicola Warner was awarded the title "Business Person of the Year".

For more information about Christies Care, visit [www.christiescare.com](http://www.christiescare.com)

#### **Ends**

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**Photo Caption:** (L-R) Chrissie Farley of UK Skills presents Mandy Boyce (Christies Care) with the East of England National Training Award.



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### **Notes to editors;**

#### **National Training Awards, brought to you by UK Skills**

1. The National Training Awards recognise those individuals and organisations throughout the UK that have achieved outstanding business and personal success through investment in training. Winning an Award is recognition of best practice and provides a benchmark for standards of excellence in training in the UK.
2. Run on an annual basis on behalf of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills by UK Skills, the Awards are also supported by Skills Development Scotland, The Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland.
3. Established in 1987, the National Training Awards are free to enter and are unique because the seven Award categories encompass all sectors, sizes of organisations, training providers and individuals. The Award categories also recognise all types of training from formal qualifications programmes to informal learning and coaching.
4. The National Training Awards aim to develop entrants throughout the Awards process, from the advice and self-assessment guidance given at the outset to the constructive feedback given to each entrant after judging. Finalists and Winners of the Awards are honoured through a series of regional networking events and a national ceremony.

For more information please visit [www.nationaltrainingawards.com](http://www.nationaltrainingawards.com)

#### **Christies Care**

1. Christies Care is a leading, specialist agency in the provision of Care Assistants for 24 hour, live-in care. Clients range in age from 20 to over 100 years and the practical support they need varies from simple companionship and housekeeping to those with severe physical or learning disabilities.
2. The company supplies full-time, live-in Care Assistants for agreed periods ranging from two weeks (e.g. for respite care or convalescence) to ten years or more.
3. Christies Care is registered with the Care Quality Commission and works very closely with Social Services Departments. About one third of clients receive direct financial support from Health Departments and/or Local Authorities and Christies Care can help with cost sharing arrangements.
4. It is an accredited OCR centre for health and social care training and is a British Institute of Learning Disability (BILD) satellite training centre. The company has invested in modern training facilities and accommodation for Care Assistants whilst they train at its Saxmundham base in Suffolk.
5. All Care Assistants receive four days intensive induction training and four months probationary training. Over half of employed carers have achieved NVQ Level 2 in Health & Social Care.
6. Over 500 Care Assistants will be trained by Christies Care this year.
7. Advanced training course for Care Assistants include Challenging Behaviour, Brain Injury, Stroke Awareness, Learning Disabilities (4 day intensive course), Physical

Disabilities (5 day course), Dealing with Bereavement, Multiple Sclerosis, Deaf Disability Awareness and British Sign Language.

8. See [www.christiescare.com](http://www.christiescare.com) or [www.twitter.com/ChristiesCare](https://www.twitter.com/ChristiesCare)