



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Local Heroes recognised at Police Authority Community Awards Night

Local people across County Durham and Darlington have been presented with an award for 'going that extra mile' to help keep their communities safe.

Durham Police Authority's Community Awards Scheme was launched during the summer, giving members of the public the opportunity to nominate those who they felt deserved to win an award. Nominations were received from all over the Force area, covering the six award categories, of: Caring, Serving, Volunteering, Achieving, Courageous and Dedicated.

The awards ceremony, held at the Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham on Thursday evening of 1st December 2011 was attended by the winners, their nominators and guests, sponsors of the Community awards and Police Authority stakeholders.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "The Community Awards were launched so that ordinary members of the public who go above and beyond what is expected of them, could be recognised and thanked for the work that they do within their communities. I am delighted with the tremendous response we have had, which also demonstrates the public appetite for rewarding community heroes".

Key sponsors of the awards night included Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC), Keepmoat, Darlington Borough Council, Best Bar None County Durham, Durham Constabulary, Whitfields Building Services and Prince Bishops Shopping Centre.

Bryan Russell, Executive Manager of DAAC said: "Durham Agency against Crime is a registered charity whose aim is to help reduce crime and the fear of crime, by supporting, facilitating and creating community safety initiatives in Co Durham and Darlington. Because of our similar aims and objectives, we have therefore been delighted to support the Police Authority Community Awards".

Richard Toynbee, Centre Manager for Prince Bishops Shopping Centre said: "We pride ourselves at Prince Bishops Shopping Centre in being a socially responsible business in Durham City Centre, working hard to ensure we make

our centre is safe an experience as possible for our customers, so it made absolute sense for us to support the Community Awards, as we are all working towards the same aim of making a real difference to our communities”.

To ensure a fair and consistent approach, scoring criteria was used to judge the winning entries. There were 5 judges for the awards: Chief Constable Jon Stoddart, Councillor Bill Dixon, Leader of Darlington Borough Council, Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, Mark Tallentire, reporter for the Northern Echo and Mrs Elsie Davies, Independent Member of Durham Police Authority.

Councillor Bill Dixon said: “Engaging with local people is at the heart of what we do, which is why Darlington Borough Council is pleased to be supporting these awards. There is a lot of good work that goes on in the Darlington area by ordinary people who care about keeping their communities safe, many of whom have been recognised for their contribution and have received a community award”.

The 29 winners have been confirmed for each of the following categories:

Award Categories	Winners name	Winners name	Winners name	Winners name	Winners name
CARING	Jenny Sanderson (Coundon, near Bishop Auckland)	Kim Baird (Darlington)	Sedgefield Locality Carers (Sedgefield)	Lynne Hinde (Darlington)	KK2 Volunteer Group/Event Team (Chester-le-Street)
SERVING	Durham Street Lights (Durham City)	John & Pat Barnett (Horden)	Peter & Gladys Stubbs (Barnard Castle)	Mark Gilbank (Durham City)	Harold Wilshire (Billy Row, Crook)
VOLUNTEERING	Geoff Darkes (Spennymoor)	Eddie Stringer (Burnopfield)	Daniel Darnton (Darlington)	Sajna Miah (Darlington)	Alex Doyle (Barnard Castle)
ACHIEVING	Sildon Community Safety Group (Sildon)	West Auckland NHW (West Auckland)	Olga Bradley (Bearpark, Durham)	Anti Social Behaviour Working Group (Ferryhill)	NO WINNER
COURAGEOUS	Anonymous	Aimee Yule (Darlington)	Anonymous	Paul Henry (Darlington)	Mark Bell & Alan Hawkey (Stanley)
DEDICATED	John Dixon (Crookhall, Consett)	Mrs Joan Bailey MBE (Peterlee)	Pat Barnett (Horden)	Evelyn Smith (Seaham)	Dorothy Bowman (Newton Aycliffe)

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

About Durham Police Authority

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is

made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority's Vision

“To ensure that policing in County Durham and Darlington is fair, effective and visible”

The Authority's Mission

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of high quality policing by:

- Exercising strong & effective leadership
- Engaging positively with communities to build confidence in local policing
- Strengthening partnership working
- Promoting equality, tolerance & respect for human rights
- Scrutinising and challenging police performance to secure continuous improvement
- Scrutinising and challenging business systems and processes to ensure effective use of resources

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