

24 November 2009

Award for North Norfolk led Safer Workplace, Better Business project

The *Safer Workplace, Better Business* scheme, led by North Norfolk District Council in partnership with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and Breckland District Council, was awarded the East Region Partnership Award 2009 at the Regional Partnership Conference held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on 18 November 2009. The award was collected by Gemma Williams, Commercial Team Leader and Ian Wheeler, Environmental Health Officer.

The district and borough councils in North Norfolk, Great Yarmouth, Breckland and King's Lynn joined forces to run *Safer Workplace, Better Business*, a scheme designed to make health and safety management easy for small businesses. It offered businesses with between 5 and 15 employees free training and one-to-one coaching. The scheme, which was entered for the award by Chief Officers Norfolk County Health and Safety Liaison Group, will be rolled out to more Norfolk businesses next year.

The success of the *Safer Workplace, Better Business* pilot in Norfolk has led other local authorities and county health and safety groups elsewhere in the country to consider using the scheme for similar initiatives of their own.

During European Health and Safety Week in October, Councillor Virginia Gay, Leader of North Norfolk District Council, presented certificates to the North Norfolk businesses that have so far implemented a safety management system. They are:

- Janith Homes Ltd, Cypress Lodge, Station Road, Potter Heigham
- Scarborough House Residential Home, Clubbs Lane, Wells-Next-The-Sea
- Janith Homes Ltd, The Rookery, Walcott, Norfolk
- Clover Childcare Services Ltd, Clover Lodge, The Common, Happisburgh

Councillor Gay said: "These businesses say the project really helped their staff and their business. They found it much easier to implement safety management systems as a result."

Participants in the *Safer Workplace, Better Business* scheme get a half-day seminar, a three-hour coaching visit and a pack to help them implement a safety management system.

Under current UK legislation, businesses employing five or more people need to document any significant risks and have a health and safety policy.

- For more information call Gemma Williams, North Norfolk District Council Commercial Team Leader, on 01263 516289.
- The attached pictures shows North Norfolk District Council environmental health officers and representatives of the North Norfolk businesses presented with certificates by Councillor Virginia Gay (centre) and Gemma Williams and Ian Wheeler being presented with the award by Sandy Blair CBE, Member of the Board of the Health and Safety Executive