



PRESS RELEASE

Date 27.11.18

The best in Berkshire is celebrated at first ever county-wide Apprenticeship Awards

Businesses, apprentices and training providers from across Berkshire came together this week to celebrate the first ever Berkshire Apprenticeship Awards. Peter Brett Associates, now part of Stantec, took title honours for Berkshire Employer of the Year and Erica Deane of Peter Brett Associates, now part of Stantec, was named as Berkshire Apprentice of the Year. The event, hosted by Legoland Windsor, showcased the invaluable contribution apprenticeships are making to learners, businesses and the local economy.

Berkshire Apprenticeship Service is hosted by Slough Aspire. Commenting on the inaugural celebration Slough Aspire's Chief Executive Fiona Jones said: "This is a great opportunity to put apprenticeships centre stage. All our nominees are testament to the difference apprenticeships can make, with these organisations all reaping the many rewards from securing skilled employees for the future, impacting their bottom line to breathing fresh life into their business and improving staff loyalty and training."

"Yet despite all these huge advantages Berkshire still tails behind the national picture with only 6% of workplaces in the county having an apprentice, versus 12% nationally. We need to shine a light on apprenticeships to encourage more organisations to step forward and embrace the apprenticeship advantage."

Commenting on the awards, Paul Reilly, Managing Director of Peter Brett Associates, now part of Stantec, said:

“We’re delighted to have been honoured by the Berkshire Apprenticeship Service for the work we do to support and develop apprenticeships. These awards not only recognise the performance and quality of our apprentices but they also acknowledge the hard work that our experienced teams and managers put into supporting and coaching our younger staff.”

The winners for the awards were all decided on by a panel of expert judges of leading figures and employers from across Berkshire. Winners announced on the evening were as follows:

Best Training Provider Award – awarded to West Berkshire Training Consortium

Most Innovative Education-Based Apprenticeship Promotion Initiative Award – awarded to Maiden Erlegh School

Best Apprentice Employer (non-levy payer) Award – awarded to The Forbury Group

Best Apprentice Employer (levy-payer) Award – awarded to PBA now part of Stantec

Star Apprentice Manager Award – awarded to Andrew Gadd, Arvato UK

Star Achiever Apprentice Award – awarded to Erica Deane, PBA now part of Stantec

Best Young Ambassador Apprentice Award – awarded to Vikas Khan, Arvato UK

Best Adult Apprentice Award – awarded to Kyle Marshall, Jacobs

For future information on the Berkshire Apprenticeship Service please go to www.sloughaspire.com.

For further information on the Berkshire Apprenticeship Service, please go to www.berkshire-apprenticeship.co.uk.

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Notes to Editor

About Berkshire Apprenticeship Service:

The Berkshire Apprenticeship Service is a one-stop shop for Berkshire-based businesses who want to know more about apprenticeships. It provides business with information on apprenticeship programmes and the latest funding as well as matching them to the right apprenticeship programme and training provider for their needs. The Service is hosted by Slough Aspire CIC and managed by the Windsor Forest Colleges Group. Co-financed by the European Social Fund and the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the project aims to help businesses develop their workforce and increase the number of apprentices, particularly at level three and above. www.berkshire-apprenticeships.co.uk

For more information contact Fiona Jones, Chief Executive; Slough Aspire CIC, 01753 530146, manager@sloughaspire.com

Peter Brett Associates LLP, now part of Stantec

Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) is a leading development and infrastructure consultancy.

As an independent practice of engineers, planners, scientists and economists, we provide trusted advice to create value from the land and buildings owned or operated by our clients. Together, we create better places for the communities in which we work.

With offices across the UK, PBA has a strong reputation for its work with public and private sector clients on a diverse range of projects, including major infrastructure, urban regeneration, sustainable housing and water management.

For more information, contact www.peterbrett.com