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communities

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Date: 5 March 2009

PRESS RELEASE

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CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE CELEBRATE STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

CLEVELAND Fire Brigade celebrated its fourth Rewards and Recognition Evening which recognised staff who had gone that extra mile or who have made a difference to both the Service and the community.

The annual event took place on Wednesday 4 March at The Thistle Hotel, Middlesbrough and was a tremendous success which over 200 staff attended.

The evening recognised and thanked staff for their contributions, commitment and attendance to the Service. It included the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to 31 operational staff that has been in the service for 20 years. The medal is instituted by Her Majesty the Queen as a mark of her appreciation of long and meritorious service rendered by staff. They also received a tankard and certificate. A further seven corporate staff were also presented with mementos for their 20 years service.

The **'Outstanding' award** which recognises those that have gone the extra mile and exceed expectations was jointly won by two nominations. One was presented to Matty Stather, David Bond, Marty Keane, Andy Sullivan, John Green, Paul Beeforth and Grangetown Green Watch for their prompt action in June 2008 when a colleague, Brian Cooke collapsed at the Brigades Learning and Development Centre. The professional action by these people which meant them administering CPR, oxygen and defibrillator pads, ensured that Brian made a successful recovery. Another outstanding award was presented to Redcar Green Watch for rescuing and reviving a resident after a blaze broke out at Wykeham Close in November 2008.

The **'Excellence' award** recognises those with consistently high achievement, commitment and contribution. The winner was Craig Lee from Stockton Red Watch who has worked in partnership with local schools in the Stockton area and the RFU to develop the TRY rugby scheme. Not only does this programme encourage young people to exercise but it also promotes the healthy eating message which supports our Health & Wellbeing strategy.

All staff had the opportunity to nominate their colleagues under the **'Making a Difference'** award for working really hard, really making a difference or doing something over and above their normal duties. There were four individual winners for this category and two team awards.

- Bernie Brown, Property Manager, was nominated for his drive and commitment to a PFI building replacement programme which will make a massive impact not only on the Brigade but the local community.
- Tracy Hall from our Quality and Risk Management Department won for successfully managing an expanding and demanding workload in the face of staff shortages. Her relationship with external partners has led to the success implementation of Incident Recording System across the organisation and she has also identified where savings could be made.
- Mark Robson from Billingham Fire Station has sustained high performance and was the driving force behind the watch adopting responsibility for a deaf group.

- Elaine McCarten from Corporate Services has displayed the finest attributes with regard to customer support and service.
- Billingham White Watch were recognised for Service Delivery as this team researched, planned, booked and coordinated resources to organise 3 fun days for the general public in the high risk areas.
- Loftus Retained Station were rewarded for supporting the organisation in keeping the community safe by developing a fire awareness course for all staff at the local nursing homes, scouts and teenage mothers and attended a staggering 54 community events.

Saltburn Retained Station were the winners of the ***'High Performance Team'*** award which recognises a team for constantly surpassing targets and showing commitment to innovation and developing good practice. This team, epitomise service to the community as they are a genuine community focused station. Some staff have taken time off from their 'day job' to spend a week receiving over 300 school children at the station and educate them on safety.

A further 20 staff were also recognised for having no sickness absence for five years and five others were awarded for having no sickness absence for 10 years. Special recognition was also made to Paul Thompson who has a 20 years attendance without any sickness and Ian Gibson who has had 30 years without any sickness.

John Doyle, Chief Fire Officer said: "The staff at Cleveland Fire Brigade make the organisation what it is – excellent. These awards take place to recognise and reward the outstanding work that takes place each day to help keep the community safe.

"This is the forth year for the awards and again it has been an extremely successful night, enjoyed by all. I am positive the good work will continue and will contribute to help making the area we serve go from strength to strength."

- **Photographs from the event will be sent tomorrow**

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