

PRESS RELEASE

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ASHLEY COMMUNITY HOUSING ANNOUNCED AS NATIONAL BUSINESS AWARDS FINALIST

Birmingham-based Ashley Community Housing (ACH) has been shortlisted for the Social Enterprise of the Year award in the 2014 National Business Awards. As a specialist housing association, ACH works to provide tailored support and training services, and support its tenants into a positive future in the UK.

Going up against nine other organisations including Give as you Live and City Health Care Partnership, the organisation will compete for the prestigious award, with the winner being revealed at the National Business Awards gala dinner held on 11 November at Park Lane's Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Katy Jones, director, financial advisory and capital at ClearlySo will be acting as judge for the category. She said: *"ACH's resident-centred offering, delivered by committed staff, has contributed to a sustainable funding position and impressive growth in its social impact."*

Fuad Mahamed, chief executive at Ashley Community Housing, said: "We're thrilled to have been shortlisted for such a prestigious award. Ashley Community Housing strives to provide a safe, supportive environment for its tenants and it's great that the services provided by our dedicated staff have been recognised. ACH would like to thank all our statutory, voluntary and private sector partners who through collaboration and joint effort made our success possible. We will always be fiercely committed to providing the best possible services to all our tenants, learners and other stakeholders. This is the ACH way. "

This year's shortlisted businesses cover activities as diverse as retail, technology, men's grooming products, telecoms, construction, advertising, entertainment, and publishing. Of the businesses shortlisted, 24% turnover under £5m, 26% turnover between £5m and £25m, 15% over a billion and 10% not for profit organisations. The smallest business recognised has a turnover of just £23k with the largest reaching £20 billion. Finalists collectively employ over 850,000 people, the smallest has just one member of staff while the largest employs around 165,000 people globally.

Alex Evans, Programme Director of the National Business Awards said: "The diversity and quality of this year's finalists have firmly established the National Business Awards as the talent scout for UK plc, with market leading household names recognised alongside the best emerging business brands.

“With a variety of industries represented, these recovery-leading businesses have demonstrated the return on investment in people, innovation, customer service and leadership.”

Finalists were chosen from the hundreds of businesses that entered or were nominated across 17 award categories. They will now prepare for live presentations to expert juries who will decide the overall winners that will be revealed at the awards ceremony on 11 November.

Visit www.nationalbusinessawards.co.uk for a full list of all finalists and to attend the event.

The National Business Awards supports The Prince’s Trust, a charity that offers practical and financial support to young people who need it.

- Ends -

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Notes to Editors

About the National Business Awards

Open to organisations of all sizes from all sectors across the UK, the National Business Awards is the UK’s most prestigious independent business recognition platform with its particular emphasis on excellence, innovation and ethical business. Now in its 13th year, the National Business Awards connects the nations’ professionals through its annual awards ceremony; year-round thought leadership and round table events; and is UBM plc’s flagship awards programme. Visit www.nationalbusinessawards.co.uk for further information or follow us on Twitter @businessawards.

Categories include -

The Daily Telegraph Award for a Decade of Excellence in Business

The Duke of York New Entrepreneur of the Year

The BlackBerry Business Enabler of the Year

The Smith & Williamson Entrepreneur of the Year

The Inflexion International Growth Business of the Year

The QBE FTSE 100 Business of the Year

The UKTI Digital Business of the Year

The New Business of the Year

The Customer Focus Award

The ICAEW Sustainable Business Award

The Social Enterprise of the Year

The Santander Corporate Citizenship Award

The Market Gravity Innovation Award

The Growth Business of the Year

The Employer of the Year

The Santander Small to Medium-Sized Business of the Year

The Ashridge Business School Leader of the Year

Official Partners

The Grichan Partnership, Friendly Pensions and Lime HR.

About UBM Live

The National Business Awards is organised by UBM Live. UBM Live connects people and creates opportunities for companies across five continents to develop new business, meet customers, launch new products, promote their brands and expand their markets. Through premier brands such as MD&M, CPhI, IFSEC, TFM&A, Cruise Shipping Miami, the Concrete Show and many others, UBM Live exhibitions, conferences, awards programs, publications, websites and training and certification programs are an integral part of the marketing plans of companies across more than 20 industry sectors.