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**Press release**

**6th December 2013**

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## **ESH CLEANS UP WITH A £20,000 SANTANDER SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

Leamington Spa based social enterprise ESH Works Ltd founded four years ago by three recovering addicts has won £20,000 in the 2013 Santander Social Enterprise Development Awards.

The award recognises the contribution and the impact that ESH Works have made in the community supporting people with substance misuse issues including the families and friends of those individuals.

Pictured at the ESH Works location in Leamington Spa, Chris White MP and ESH Works CEO Paul Urmston.



The award from Santander will be used to employ a Project Worker to help establish and operate a 'clean house' for people in their early days of 'recovery' assisting them with their reintegration into the community. The drug and alcohol free clean house will operate a zero tolerance principle for anyone found using or bringing drugs or alcohol onto the premises.

Paul Urmston, Chief Executive of ESH Works said "The award from Santander will help us set up the first clean house programme in Warwickshire providing essential support for those recovering from addiction - it is absolutely vital that the house is a clean, supported and safe

environment for people to start their journey of recovery."



ESH Works has a team of volunteers who are able to pass on their own personal experience of addiction to other people who are currently in the same position as they once were. Research has shown that the most effective support comes from those who have already made their journey into recovery.

Chris White, local MP said "Having been responsible for the Social Value Act and the potential impact on Social Enterprises I would like to congratulate ESH Works on their fabulous achievement in winning the 2013 Santander Social Enterprise Development Award. It is a testament to their exceptional work in the community over the past four years and I am delighted to hear about the positive outcomes which they have achieved for those experiencing addiction".

ESH is one of nine social enterprises to win a SEDA award this year which saw a total of £150,000 distributed to organisations across the Midlands. ESH Works are hoping that there will be further additional funding to support this initiative from the local Drug and Alcohol Action Team and other local grant providers.

- Ends --

**For further information please contact ESH Works**

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**Notes to editors:**

ESH Works is an independent non profit making organisation providing mutual support for those addicted to or affected by alcohol, drugs or other dependencies. We offer involvement and volunteering opportunities for people with personal experience of addiction who want to help us make a difference.

The fundamental principles and ethos of the organisation are reflected in the prefix of the name 'ESH Works'. The letters ESH represent the Experience, Strength and Hope which alcoholics, addicts and their families who have lived through the issues and found a solution can give to support people who are still experiencing addiction problems.



We believe the principle of 'ESH' works because the knowledge, understanding and skills required to face addictive behaviour can be best communicated by people who have direct, first hand experience of these issues.

Our focus as an organisation is on 'recovery' from addiction and we believe that the necessary support is most effective when it is led by people who themselves have experienced the problems and found a solution.

### **About the Social Enterprise Development Award**

The Santander Social Enterprise Development Awards are part of the bank's commitment to supporting small businesses in the UK. Social enterprises play a vital role in local communities by helping to deliver social regeneration and SEDA aims to help those with potential to expand their work.

SEDA is targeted at established social enterprises looking to grow their business and working for the direct benefit of their community via one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improving communities via social inclusion
- Supporting disadvantaged people through training, skills and employment
- Creating a greener environment