



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Apprentice Awards 2006

APSE's Environmental Services Seminar 2006 saw a spectacular night for two young workers who scooped coveted APSE Apprentice Awards. Luke Overington from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham won APSE's **Young Horticulturist of the Year Award** and Stewart Harling from Wakefield MBC won the **Transport & Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice of the Year Award** after impressing judges with details of intensive training, personal interest in their areas of work and commitment to their employers and colleagues.

Speaking at the awards ceremony APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien said "***At a time when we hear so much negative coverage about the public sector and about young people here we have stunning examples of committed young people eager to learn a trade***" adding "***Learning a trade has always been a good foundation for employees and employers. These councils are prepared to demonstrate their commitment to developing young people - the workforce, and the individuals in particular, will benefit from this investment for many years to come.***"

Apprenticeships are keenly supported by APSE as a means to ensure that councils are able to repose to skills shortages across the public sector including skills shortages in construction, grounds maintenance, horticulture and facility management.

### **APSE Young Horticulturist of the Year 2006 - Luke Overington, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham**

The APSE Apprentice Award for Young Horticulturist of the Year was sponsored by LANTRA, the training and skills organisation for Horticulture.

David Winn, Industry Partnership Manager for Floristry, Production Horticulture and Landscape Industries at LANTRA said "***Parks play a huge part in our lives, both in childhood and as adults. It takes a lot of work to keep these places smart, safe and clean – so it is nice to be involved in an event which gives something back and rewards the people putting in the effort. As the Sector Skills Council for horticulture, we recognise that skills and learning make a successful worker and a successful team, so we are extremely pleased to support this event. The standard and quality of the 5 finalists was outstanding and encouraging - they make great ambassadors for the industry. I'm sure the future of horticulture is in good hands.***"

## **APSE Transport & Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice of the Year 2006 – Stewart Harling, Wakefield MBC**

The APSE Award for Transport & Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice of the Year was sponsored by Zoeller Waste Systems, manufacturers and suppliers of high quality, high specification lifting devices to the private and public sectors within the waste industry.

Simon Hyde, Managing Director for Zoeller commented ***“Zoeller Waste Systems Limited are very proud to be associated with APSE and are pleased to have sponsored the APSE Transport & Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice of the Year awards at Stoke again this year. At Zoeller Waste Systems Limited we see the importance of investing in young people across the sector to equip them with the appropriate knowledge and skill sets to fully understand the value of product development, innovation and productivity improvements within the industry.”***

### **Are Your Apprentices the Best?**

The APSE Apprentice Awards have been running successfully for 10 years throughout the UK. The aim of the awards, which are open to every authority in the UK\*, is not only to give recognition to our future tradespersons, but also to the councils themselves who continue to invest in and provide first class training / employment initiatives in bona-fide Modern Apprenticeship schemes.

The APSE Apprentice Awards scheme is open to candidates from all stages of training, the submission should be based over one academic year (e.g. August 2005 / July 2006) and take the form of a portfolio - the presentation format is entirely at your authorities discretion, and all subsequent finalists will be interviewed and presented at the annual dinner awards evening of one of 3 national APSE seminars held throughout the UK. Each candidate and their local authority receive individual awards at the annual dinner to recognise the achievements of both the apprentice and the employer.

Entries for the Apprentice Awards are examined individually and assessed on their own merit.

The Apprentice Awards are split into 6 categories:

- **NEW Young Leisure Apprentice of the Year** (To be held annually at the APSE Healthy Communities Seminar in January)
- **NEW Sign Manufacturing Apprentice of the Year** (To be held annually at the APSE Roads, Highways and Street Lighting Seminar in March)
- **NEW Highways & Street Lighting Apprentice of the Year** (To be held annually at the APSE Roads, Highways and Street Lighting Seminar in March)
- **Housing and Building Apprentice of the Year** (Held annually at the APSE Housing and Building Services Seminar in March/April)
- **Young Horticultural Apprentice of the Year** (Held annually at the APSE Environmental Services Seminar in October)
- **Transport & Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice of the Year** (Held annually at the APSE Environmental Services Seminar in October)

For further details on any of APSEs Apprentice Awards or to submit a notification of interest, please contact **Amanda Steele, Marketing & Co-ordination Officer** on 0161 772 1810 or via email at [asteele@apse.org.uk](mailto:asteele@apse.org.uk)

*(\*) The Apprentice of the Year Awards are open to members and non-members of APSE.*