



Building a future for Britains' young workers

Local authorities that have supported construction apprenticeships were rewarded with national recognition as APSE (the Association for Public Service Excellence) awarded three young people in the construction industry prestigious Apprentice of the Year Awards following programmes implemented by UK local authorities.

Presenting the awards, Paul O'Brien, APSE Chief Executive, said "**At a time when the UK is struggling to recruit qualified construction workers local authorities that have invested in training young people, in the skills that a modern and vibrant nation needs, should be proud of the national example that they are setting to the rest of the public sector and indeed the construction industry**".

The winners in each of the categories are:-

- Female housing and building apprentice of the year (sponsored by Construction Youth Trust) Winner - Lorraine Clark, aged 21 of Fife Council, .
- Housing and building apprentice of the year: Building skills category (sponsored by UCATT) Winner - Ryan Rebeiro, aged 20 of Hackney Homes
- Housing and building apprentice of the year: Mechanical and electrical category (sponsored by HAYS) Winner - John Shurmer, aged 19, of Swindon Borough Council,

Commenting on the need for more female apprentices Christine Townley, of the Construction Youth Trust, stated that whilst authorities had made great strides to recruit more women into the construction industry local councils still needed "**a seismic shift in attitude to ensure more young females come into construction through the local authority apprenticeship route**".

Ends

Notes to editors

APSE is the Association for Public Service Excellence and works with over 300 authorities throughout the UK

The APSE Apprentice of the Year Awards in the construction sector are designed to encourage authorities to develop apprenticeship schemes and create employment opportunities in the locality to benefit the local economy as well as inspire more young people to take up apprenticeships.

Within the UK less than 1% of construction workers are female.

The Construction Youth Trust is working to develop better take up of apprenticeships across the industry, especially amongst female apprentices and address sector skills shortages. The female Apprentice of the Year Award sponsored by the Trust was presented on behalf of the Trust by Leslie Peers.

Details about the Construction Youth Trust can be found on the web

<http://www.constructionyouth.org.uk/>

Wilf Flynn of UCATT presented the award on behalf of UCATT to Ryan Rebeiro. UCATT is the UK's leading trade union for construction workers

Richard Hattersley of HAYS presented the award on behalf of HAYS to John Shurmer. HAYS is a specialist provider of construction staffing solutions to local authorities throughout the UK

Jpeg images of the award winners are available from APSE for press use. For further information please contact Mo Baines on **0161 772 1810** or **mbaines@apse.org.uk** or mobile **07971 843515**

Visit the APSE web at <http://www.apse.org.uk/>

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