



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swanswell win National Training Award three years running

Swanswell wins the *West Midlands Training Award, Providing Education & Training* for its delivery of alcohol training to practitioners

1 October 2009, National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham – Swanswell proved yet again that they deliver effective training when Specialist Practitioners, Tim Gunner and Carly Smith, picked up this year's regional award for their innovative alcohol training. This adds to Swanswell's collection of awards, having won the regional award for alcohol training in 2008 and the national award for their trainee scheme in 2007.

Their ground-breaking training improves drug practitioner's understanding and identification of alcohol use. This helps them reduce alcohol related risk, resulting in a shift of *drugs* practitioners to *substance misuse* practitioners. Swanswell are keen to share their experience of providing outstanding training with other providers in their field.

Swanswell Chief Executive, Debbie Bannigan, said: "*We are thrilled to have won an award for the third year running, it's good to know that the work we do so well is being recognised.*"

Collecting the award from local news reader, Sameena Ali-Khan, Tim Gunner said: "*Our training is ahead of the sector. We're innovative and forward thinking in*

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identifying and giving brief alcohol advice. We'd now like to make this training available nationwide by working with other organisations."

Carly went on to say: *"We're committed to training our staff, allowing practitioners to connect with drug users who seek to change their alcohol use."*

The National Training Awards are run by UK Skills on behalf of the *Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills* and are universally recognised as being number one in their field.

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Notes for editors

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About Swanswell

At Swanswell, we believe that everyone deserves the chance to change and to be happy. We help them to remove the things that stand in their way, whether physical, emotional or practical. So, as their lives improve, they can feel well, do well, and stay well. With over 41 years experience, Swanswell is an established provider of services that help and support people in tackling their alcohol or drug related difficulties, enabling them to lead happy and more independent lives. Swanswell has a reputation for innovation and is a leading developer of new services which help people to change their behaviour for the better.