

**Press Release: Swanswell**  
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## **Swanswell Wins Second National Training Award**

**As a regional winner for the second consecutive year at the prestigious National Training Awards, Swanswell, a charity specialising in the support of people with drug and alcohol problems, has again been recognised for its outstanding commitment to training.**

Tim Gunner and Carly Smith, Specialist Practitioners from Swanswell in Birmingham, accepted the 2008 award from Olympic athlete Colin Jackson at a ceremony held recently at the National Motorcycle Museum. Selected from an impressive shortlist of 20 organisations and individuals, Swanswell's innovative 'Alcohol Awareness' training was announced as the West Midlands regional winner in the category of training and education.

The 'Alcohol Awareness' course has been specifically developed to provide its drug workers with an understanding of alcohol use and its link with drug misuse, making them better equipped to identify and reduce the associated risks.

As Tim Gunner explained, "Alcohol consumption among clients of drug services is well above the national average and alcohol is a major contributing factor to illness and death for those with drug problems. We recognise the benefit of treating both issues in the same setting and the 'alcohol awareness' training allows us to better support our clients and improve outcomes".

Commented Swanswell's Chief Executive Debbie Bannigan, "I am delighted that our expertise in an area where funding is challenging has been recognised for a second year. We hope to reach out to more people with complex needs through building capacity with partner organisations, as well as offering our proven holistic approach through our own services."

Since its formation 40 years ago, Swanswell has become an established and respected provider of community based services for people with drug and alcohol problems. Now

expanding beyond its Midlands base, the charity is working in local partnerships and with national agencies to provide innovative and effective programmes to support people who want to lead a happier life by helping them remove the physical and emotional barriers that stand in their way.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

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 the number one in their field. For more information visit <http://www.nationaltrainingawards.com>

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