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LOCAL PROBATION EMPLOYEE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

HRH The Princess Royal will present Cliff Thompson, Work Skills Programme Manager of the Staffordshire Probation Area with The Butler Trust Keith Bromley Award for Education and Skills Training at Buckingham Palace on Monday, 3 March. The award is in recognition of his work in creating The Workskills Programme which has been used to provide a range of practical work based skills qualifications

The award to Cliff Thompson, which is supported by the Bromley Trust, is one of several to be presented by The Princess Royal on behalf of The Butler Trust. The Trust is an independent charity whose Annual Award Scheme seeks to identify and promote excellence and innovation by staff working with offenders throughout the UK.

Cliff Thompson's special blend of initiative, skills and experience equipped him well for the task of designing and delivering a practical skills training programme for offenders with the Open College Network and two further education colleges. The accredited programme includes decorating, horticulture, health and safety and customer service. In the last ten years over 4,500 learners have studied the programme with a success rate of 75%. Basic skills have now been embedded into the practical units. Cliff's visionary work has been rewarded by employment prospects for the learners and professional and personal development for the tutors.

Cliff said; "I feel that the Butler Trust Keith Bromley Award for Education and Skills Training is a sound endorsement of the hard work of my staff and me. I believe that the award and the

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consequent support from The Butler Trust will support our aims of making the Workskills Progression Programme an even healthier, fit for purpose, transferable vehicle for addressing the workplace and the social interaction skills of offenders.”

The award will be one of 42 being presented this year to prison staff throughout the UK, probation staff in England and Wales and Criminal Justice Social Work staff in Scotland.

Commenting on the awards, Sir Trevor Brooking, Chairman of The Butler Trust said: “The Butler Trust is delighted to be able to draw attention to and reward some of the wonderful and innovative ways in which prison and probation staff help offenders. Much of what these talented people do is challenging and often goes unseen by the general public. However, they play a crucial role in reducing re-offending rates across the UK. I would like to extend my personal thanks to each and every one of them.”

For details of all the 2008 Butler Trust Award winners please visit www.thebutlertrust.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of the presentation will be available via Fiona Fountain after the ceremony on March 3. Please contact Fiona Fountain on 01892 544035 for more details..

THE BUTLER TRUST

The Butler Trust was set up in 1985 and named after RAB Butler, reforming Home Secretary. It is an independent registered charity funded by charitable trusts, corporate, individual as well as some statutory support.

HRH The Princess Royal has been the Trust's Patron since 1985. Her interest and contribution to the Trust has been immense. She undertakes about ten visits on the Trust's behalf each year and in every year since the Trust's formation she has personally presented awards at impressive ceremonies, to which each winner can bring a guest. These presentations have been made at ceremonies in prestigious surroundings such as Buckingham Palace, the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, Lambeth Palace, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and once in Cardiff at the National Museum and Gallery of Wales.

Butler Trust awards identify and promote excellence and innovation in a sector that is often misunderstood and frequently receives negative publicity. The awards recognise exceptionally dedicated, and often creative and innovative work, and enable the development and dissemination of best practice.

In 2005 the Award Scheme was extended to the England and Wales Probation Services and National Offender Management Staff. In 2006 the Award Scheme was extended further to cover the Probation Board in Northern Ireland and Criminal Justice Social Workers in Scotland.

The Trust invites nominations through Butler Trust Local Assessment Panels from all Prison Service and privately managed establishments, Probation Areas in England and Wales, Headquarters groups and court escort contractors, criminal justice social work agencies in Scotland and the Probation Board of

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Northern Ireland. The Trust's Awarding Panel draws up a short-list of nominees who are interviewed at the end of November. The Panel's recommendations are endorsed by Trustees at their December meeting. In 2007/2008 there were 340 nominations from 138 locations.

2008 Awards:

- Development Awards: 4 awards have been made for work which the Trust feels it can help winners to develop and disseminate (one of which is supported by the Prison Officers' Association)
- Achievement Awards: 5 awards have been made for work which already constitutes accredited, approved or core programmes
- The Lord Woolf Award for resettlement work in partnership with other agencies
- The Terry Waite Award for work with lifers and long-term prisoners
- The Trevor Brooking Award for the Personal Development of Offenders through Sport
- The Group Award for a group of three or more people working together
- The Award for Excellence (supported by GSL)
- The Greening/Sustainable Development Award (supported by HMPS)
- The Wates Foundation Award for work with female offenders
- The Diversity Award for work which promotes equality (supported by HMPS)
- The Keith Bromley Award for education and skills training (supported by The Bromley Trust)
- The Helen Hamlyn Trust Award for education and skills training work with young offenders
- The Health Improvement Award (supported by NHS Prison Health)
- The Sainsbury Centre Award for Mental Health Work *NEW FOR 2008*
- The Award for Court Escort and Custody work (supported by Reliance Secure Task Management)
- The Award for Offender Management and Sentence Planning (supported by G4S)
- The Award for Community Engagement and Civil Renewal
- The Award for Public Protection (supported by the National Probation Service)
- The Award for the Health and Well-being of Staff (supported by Atos Origin)
- The Community Justice Partnership Award (supported by SPS and CoSLA *NEW FOR 2008*)
- Certificate Awards: This year 12 have been made to other outstanding nominees, including the Paul Mason Certificate Award for Staff Care.

All awards can be given to any person or people working closely together to achieve the outcomes for which they are nominated.

Winners of major awards are granted funding by The Butler Trust for professional and personal development. They are allowed special leave by their employers. Other nominations receive Nomination Certificates if they reach the high standards required.