



Press Release

June 2011

The Place2Be school counselling service wins top national award

The Place2Be, a school-based counselling service that works to help vulnerable children and their families explore their problems through talk, creative work and play has won one of the most prestigious accolades to be awarded in the UK charity sector at The Charity Awards 2011.

The charity, which works with 172 schools across the UK, offering its services to 58,000 children coping with problems such as bereavement, family breakdown, domestic violence and bullying won the *Advice, Support & Advocacy* award specifically for the support it offers to parents. The Charity Awards judges recognised that by supporting the parents of a distressed child the wellbeing of the whole family improves.

Benita Refson OBE, Chief Executive, The Place2Be said, *We are really honoured to have won this award, The Place2Be helps parents and children who desperately need support but who might otherwise be overlooked. Many parents we work with say we make a difference to their and their children's lives and it is wonderful that the Charity Awards has recognised this too. This award is for those who deliver and use our service: Place2Be counsellors, schools and families.*

One parent who has used the service said, *I no longer wake up in the morning dreading the day that's about to attack me from all sides. A Place for Parents has given me strategies for day-to-day living so I am now moving onwards; no longer frightened of new experiences and ready to try anything. I have gained my self-respect.*

Daniel Phelan, organiser of the Charity Awards 2011 said, *The Charity Awards are all about drawing attention to the talent and expertise being bought to bear on voluntary activity in the UK. I'm delighted that the Place2Be has won the Advice, Support & Advocacy award. The judges singled out those charities whose excellence in charity management they felt will inspire others. The Place2Be is an excellent organisation, the award is richly deserved and I congratulate them on their achievements.*

Benita Refson, Chief Executive and Catherine Roche, Chief Operating Officer, The Place2Be collected the award at a gala dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel on June 9th in front of 1,000 of the charity world's most senior representatives and celebrity guests including comedian Hugh Dennis, author Monica Ali, star of Strictly come Dancing Bruno Tonioli and newsreader Krishnan Guru Murthy, who presented awards in ten separate categories.

-ends-

For further information about The Place2Be please contact:
Merrie Ashton on 07801 930 847, Direct line 0207 396 5339
Email: mashton@brunswickgroup.com www.theplace2be.org.uk

For more information about the Charity Awards 2011 please contact:
Theresa Osen at Origin Communications on 07931 335930
Email: theresaosen@gmail.com www.charityawards.co.uk

Notes to Editors

The Place2Be offers one-to-one support to children and their parents, carers and teachers in the familiar environment of the school.

- Support for parents is offered in all 172 Place2Be schools across the UK. Parents whose children are in one-to-one counselling receive up to five sessions of consultative support through the parent partnership model.
- Parents can also receive one-to-one counselling through 'A Place for Parents' model which is available to parents in in Place2Be schools in Edinburgh, Durham, Nottingham, Wandsworth, Southwark, Greenwich, Croydon, Medway. Parent counsellors offer a parent one session a week for anything between eight weeks and 40 weeks (an academic year.)
- This September, Parent Counsellors will also be offering one-to-one counseling in Place2Be schools in Harlow, Greater Manchester and East Lancashire thanks to funding from the Department for Education.
- Parents come to The Place2Be with concerns ranging from the conduct of their children to dealing with the impact of domestic violence, alcoholism, poverty and abuse.
- 70% of the parents self-report depression when they are first seen. Following one-to-one counselling sessions with a Place2Be parent counsellor, 96% of parents show reduced distress.
- Over the last three years 90% of parents reported significant improvement in their psychological wellbeing following support The Place2Be.
- For further information please visit www.theplace2be.org.uk

The Charity Awards 2011 is organised by *Civil Society Media*, the leading publishing and training company for the voluntary sector.

- The panel of judges includes Andrew Hind CB, former chief executive of the Charity Commission, Dr John Low CBE, chief executive of the Charities Aid Foundation, Dame Mary Marsh, founding director of the Clore Social Leadership Programme and former chief executive of the NSPCC, Sir Christopher Kelly, chair of the

King's Fund, Lesley-Anne Alexander, chief executive of RNIB and Martin Brookes, Chief Executive of New Philanthropy Capital.

- The winning charities are chosen for specific initiatives which have improved the delivery of their charitable objectives and which demonstrate outstanding examples of best practice from which other charities can learn.
- The Charity Awards is sponsored by the Charities Aid Foundation, The Leadership Trust and The Times.