

BUSINESSUPDATE

Read BusinessWeek in The News every Tuesday



Boost for women's work

TWO women have received £500 to reward their entrepreneurial efforts.

The Portsmouth pair, Karen Standen, 45, of Four Paws Aqua, Fratton, and Sarah Barnes, of Mums' Tums to Tots, in Tranmere Road, Milton, received the cash to help further develop their businesses.

The pair were given the cash after completing a course funded by the European Social Fund, Empower. The course has helped more than 150 women with the dream of starting their own business.

The training, co-ordinated by the education business

partnership, First Partnership and delivered by business support organisation, Women's Wisdom, was designed to raise confidence and self-esteem in women to help them in their first steps to self-employment.

From 15 workshops, 15 women received a £100 bursary to help them with their next steps. Of these, Mrs Standen and Mrs Barnes were chosen in a peer vote to receive a further £500, presented by guest speaker Lizz Clarke, managing director of LCM in Fareham.

Mrs Standen received the Empower Award for Enterprise for her business, Four

Paws Aqua, which opened a hydrotherapy pool for dogs in Victory Business Centre. She said: 'I was looking for a business opportunity and have to thank my dog Chum for giving me the idea.'

Chum broke his leg twice and Mrs Standen had to travel miles to get him the therapy he needed. This gave her the idea of starting her own pool.

Mrs Barnes received the

Empower award for Enterprise for her business, which supplies mothers and their children with clothing through a number of outlets, including St Mary's Hospital.

With funding coming to an end, Women's Wisdom is looking to sustain the project through other outlets. Call 0800 781 8597 or email enquiries@womenswisdom.co.uk.

jeremy.dunning@thenews.co.uk



Sarah Barnes can't believe her luck as she accepts her cheque from Lizz Clarke

PICTURE: jacqui.payne@firstpartnership.com



Karen Standen, owner of Four Paws Aqua at Victory Business Centre, Somers Road North, Southsea, with her chocolate labrador, Chum, using the hydrotherapy pool

PICTURE: MICHAEL SCADDAN (074490-0125)