



MEDIA RELEASE: Immediate Release

21st November 2013

DEVONPORT CHARITY RECOGNISED IN TOP 3% OF UK BUSINESSES

A local community music organisation has been presented with a prestigious national award for the striking and innovative way it develops its workforce.

Devonport based Plymouth Music Zone has been awarded the Investors in People Silver award for the way it has transformed business performance through the support and motivation of its team. The Devonport charity works with some of the most disadvantaged people in Plymouth, providing high quality tailored music workshops for those considered most in need, as well as delivering bespoke training for musicians, teachers and community leaders.

Debbie Geraghty, Executive Director at Plymouth Music Zone, said,

"We're so thrilled to achieve the Silver award. I had no idea so few businesses achieved that level. As a charity, we're all about investing in our beneficiaries and we do the same for our own people too – you can't have one without the other. In this economic climate, so many organisations are making cutbacks that affect staff. We chose to do the opposite. We're so proud that what we do every day has been recognised through the Investors in People Award."

PMZ joins an exclusive club of fewer than 600 organisations in the country to have gained the Silver award - just 2.82 per cent of all organisations awarded the Investors in People Standard. The standard is a framework of best practice, awarded to well-run organisations that meet set criteria such as learning and development, leadership skills and recognition and reward of staff.

John Telfer, Managing Director of Inspiring Business Performance Ltd (IBP), the organisation that delivers Investors in People for London and the South, said,

"This is a fantastic achievement for Plymouth Music Zone and clearly shows that continual improvement and development is a top priority. Over a third of the UK's workforce uses Investors in People today and this is because of the many benefits that being Investors in People can bring. Once key decision makers implement changes for the better, the effects can often be seen across all areas of an organisation."

The assessor's report for Plymouth Music Zone said the organisation's employees were "amongst the happiest, most motivated employees I have ever had the pleasure of meeting and there can be no question PMZ is a great place to work." PMZ's innovative approach to training was described as "striking". The report called communication at PMZ "an effortless exercise" and a "natural function of what (PMZ) is about", and said "the biggest difficulty in writing this report has been finding weaknesses".

Plymouth Music Zone is now working towards the Gold Award and hopes to achieve it within the next three years.

ENDS/See Notes to Editors.

Plymouth Music Zone Ltd

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Company Number - 4653409

Registered Charity Number - 1100878





Notes to Editors:

About Investors in People:

- Investors in People offers a practical, flexible and easy to use framework for improving business productivity, performance and competitiveness in organisations of all types and sizes through good practice in people management.
- An organisation that has achieved Investors in People has been successful in adopting and maintaining its three fundamental principles:
 - Plan - developing strategies to improve the performance of the organisation, from business goals to leadership strategies;
 - Do - implementing those strategies, taking action to improve the performance of the organisation;
 - Review - evaluating and adjusting those strategies, measuring their impact on the performance of the organisation.
- The UK Commission for Employment and Skills has strategic ownership of the Investors in People framework. Investors in People is part of the UK Commission's ambition to improve skills, employment and productivity across the UK.
- The Investors in People framework is delivered by a partner network:
 1. In England, the network of Investors in People Centres.
 2. In Scotland, Scottish Enterprise (SE) or Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).
 3. In Wales, the Business Skills Delivery Team at the Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Welsh Assembly Government.
 4. In Northern Ireland, the Department for Employment of Learning.

For more information on Investors in People visit <http://www.iip-south.co.uk>

Inspiring Business Performance (IBP) enables organisations to build success and competitive advantage through the alignment of their people with the business direction and objectives. IBP helps businesses develop a more motivated and productive workforce, inspired to perform and achieve.

Through providing consultancy and a range of innovative products and solutions from the strategic to the tactical, we help our clients to create working environments where employees want to contribute and succeed, and businesses that customers want to engage with. IBP will work with you to address challenges, find solutions and implement improvements to reach your business goals.

Working with organisations from all sectors and sizes, our clients range from small businesses to multinationals.

With a solid track record of successfully helping organisations achieve accreditations, such as Investors in People and Lexcel, IBP now offers a range of practical solutions for business.

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