Shropshire Handyperson Service commended at National Awards

Mears Shropshire Home Services has been commended in the ‘Excellence in Delivering a Handyperson Service’ category at the Home Improvement Agency Awards hosted at the House of Lords this week.

The annual awards which are organised by Foundations – the national body for Home Improvement Agencies - recognise excellence across a range of services, and Mears Shropshire Handyperson Service are thrilled to win this award which recognises the innovative work they have done around providing practical support, assistance and advice to householders.

Mears Shropshire Handyperson Service operates throughout Shropshire, providing older, disabled and vulnerable people with a trustworthy, reliable and affordable service carrying out small jobs around the home. The aim of the service is to ensure residents are safe and secure and can continue to live independently in their own homes, and is part-funded by Shropshire County Council.

Jobs include minor joinery and plumbing work, fitting security measures such as door chains, key safes and locks, and installing grab rails, ramps, pathways and steps. In the year to the end of March 2012, the Handyperson Service completed more than 3,000 jobs at over 1,400 homes across Shropshire.

John Simcox, Branch Manager, Mears said
This is an invaluable service and makes a real difference to the lives of the people of Shropshire. Our handyperson team not only have the skills, but empathy and care in delivering this service – something that is embedded within all employees who work for Mears Shropshire Home Services. A huge debt of gratitude must be given to Shropshire Council for their financial support and commitment in working with the Agency to make this service possible.

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About the Home Improvement Agency Awards:
The HIA Awards celebrate and recognise the achievement of the sector during 2012 – 2013. It has been a challenging year and this is an opportunity to showcase their achievements to peers, service users and MPs amongst many others. All winning agencies were invited to an awards ceremony on 30 April 2013 in the House of Lords hosted by Baroness Andrews OBE.

About Mears Home Improvements:
Mears Home Improvements Service helps older people, or those living with a disability to remain living independently at home. Mears Home Improvements, which has local operations around the country, provides a practical range of services, including handypersons, home adaptations, repairs, safety checks, signposting to services and advice on accessing benefits and grants.

What are home improvement agencies?
Home improvement agencies help vulnerable people to maintain their independence. Their main focus is the repair or adaptation of their clients’ homes, and in support of this they may provide a range of services depending upon local needs and circumstances - for example:
- Advice and advocacy - helping clients identify and address problems with their home.
- Financial issues: ensuring clients receive appropriate independent financial advice, and offering practical help, such as filling out forms, or checking that they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to.
- Technical support - providing assurance that repairs will be undertaken satisfactorily, to budget and on time.
- Making links – working with, for example, local authority housing and grant officers, occupational therapists, health workers, social services and local voluntary services.

For more information on Home Improvement Agencies go to www.foundations.uk.com