



STARTHERE AWARDED TOP ACCOLADE FOR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

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Not-for-profit organisation StartHere has been awarded a top accolade for Social Contribution to Technology at the 2006 British Computer Society IT awards.

StartHere gives broad, top-level information, connecting people, simply and effectively, free of charge, to the specialist organisations and services, voluntary and statutory, national and local, that can help them most. It is an accessible, easy-to-use starting point for anyone looking for information on a range of health, housing, education, employment, welfare and social issues.

The BCS IT awards are seen as the leading hallmark of success amongst practitioners in the IT industry today. Launched in 2003, the awards aim to mark the key contribution made by the IT profession to public services, economic prosperity and to business efficiency.

Sarah Hamilton-Fairley, StartHere's Chief Executive commented: 'We see this award as an important acknowledgment that web sites aren't the complete solution. People, especially when they are in some sort of crisis, need a simple route through the complex and often confusing maze of information. We plan to build on the momentum of this award and get the StartHere service out into the communities it was designed to serve'.

The charity recently announced funding from The Vodafone UK Foundation which will enable it to develop a web-based service and run a pilot project with the voluntary sector. The service will broaden the support reaching some of the most disadvantaged and socially excluded people across the country, both directly and indirectly through intermediary organisations.



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