

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

media service

From Paula Miles, Exeter 383262, December 12,2000

DEVON DRIVERS' CENTRE WINS REGIONAL SAFETY AWARD

DEVON County Council's Devon Drivers' Centre has been declared regional winner at the first ever national Jet Smile Awards for Road Safety, which recognise individuals and organisations that have demonstrated a commitment to road safety in their area.

Councillor John Smith, Vice Chairman, Devon County Council and Marion Deacock of the Drivers' Centre were presented with the award at a ceremony at Jet's Head Office, Warwick earlier this month.

The Drivers' Centre was praised for its range of services and the dedication of its three full time staff and the 40 strong team of local approved driving instructors who carry out the training.

As one of five regional winners, The Drivers' Centre received £1,000 and a beautiful crystal award. The money for the Centre will go towards further promotion of its services and to a limited special offer for driving courses for young people at a reduced rate. A further £1,000 was given to Devon County Council's Millennium charity, War Child.

Cllr Smith said: "I am delighted that the hard work and dedication of the team at the Devon Drivers' Centre has been recognised by this award.

"The unique programme of courses at the Drivers' Centre works to improve driver safety through practical training and education for anyone who uses Devon's roads.

"It supports the excellent work carried out by the County Council to reduce speeds through traffic calming measures and the development of a Speed Strategy.

"Devon County Council is recognised as a leading authority in the field of road safety with one of the lowest casualty rates in the country. However, one casualty on our roads is one too many and I hope many more drivers and companies take up the opportunities at the Drivers' Centre and remain vigilant behind the wheel."

Jeanie Moor of War Child said: "I wish to say a big thank you to Devon County Council for their wonderful support to this special charity."

Notes for Editors:

Contacts:

Cllr Smith: 01626 772223.

Peter Gimber, Devon County Council's Road Safety Manager: 01392 382118

Devon Drivers' Centre: 01392 444773.

Key Communications (Jet Awards): 0121 4563199.

Jeanie Moore, War Child: 01752 770345.

- The Drivers' Centre is a specialist wing of Devon County Council's Road Safety Unit. Facilities include a fully equipped lecture area, 1.25 acres of unobstructed tarmac for skid control and manoeuvring plus a purpose built road circuit.
- Courses offered include a pre-licence course, a Pass Plus Plus, advanced driving courses and skid prevention and control.
- Jet launched the awards in support of the Government's Think! campaign which aims to reduce the number of accidents on roads across the country.
- The awards aim to raise awareness of the importance of road safety by recognising and rewarding local achievements and efforts which have played a significant role in reducing road accidents.
- Since the early 1980's there has been a 14% reduction in the total number of casualties on Devon's roads, with deaths and serious injuries reduced by 68%. However, there are still 3,200 casualties in Devon each year, of which over 40 are fatal.
- War Child aims to heal and support children, the innocent victims, caught up in the traumas of war.