

'Outstanding employee engagement during Covid'

The Jersey Employment Trust has won an award for outstanding employee engagement during the Covid pandemic.

At the CIPD Jersey awards held at the Royal Yacht Hotel on 18 June 2022, we were recognised for the way in which staff and clients were supported through lockdown.

HR manager Amanda Berry explains what actions the management team took. 'April 2020 was an unprecedented time when many individuals had serious concerns,' she said. 'With a flexible approach, we continued supporting clients as well as reassuring our own staff. The senior management team met at all times of day including weekends, ensuring staff and the Board of Trustees were kept informed and services could be maintained.

'Staff volunteered to help dropping off food parcels to those in need, working in partnership with the Salvation Army. And we took the decision to close Acorn in December 2021, earlier than the Government of Jersey directed for the sole reason of protecting our staff, putting our people first before profit.'

Other measures included:

- *Carrying out regular welfare checks/phone calls to all staff and clients.
- *Setting up a staff Facebook group so people could get updates and stay connected.
- *Adapting client project groups so they could carry on virtually and keep people engaged.
- *Running wellbeing walks for staff and clients.
- *Providing clients with vouchers for phone data to ensure that people could keep in touch with us and with others.

JET chair Helen Ruelle said she hoped the award would continue to build the profile of JET with businesses in the Island. 'It is fantastic to have been recognised by CIPD Jersey for all the efforts that the team at JET made to support staff and clients during the pandemic. To have the opportunity to showcase and highlight the life-changing work of JET to the HR professionals attending the event is amazing.

'The focus of JET at this time was, as it always is, the wellbeing and health of its staff and clients. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank our staff for their flexibility, innovation, support and commitment to our clients during this incredibly challenging time.'