



PRESS RELEASE
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**Star Status for Devon charity
Hospiscare receives recognition in 'Best Companies Accreditation'**

A national survey has rated local charity Hospiscare a 'first class' employer in its prestigious annual accreditation programme.

The 'Best Companies' programme, which measures employee engagement, has awarded the Devon based charity a 'One Star' status as part of its Best Companies Accreditation programme. Companies obtaining 'One Star' status are acknowledged as 'first class' employer.

Sally Dupain, HR Director for Hospiscare, said: "This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to say thank you to every member of staff for their dedication and commitment to Hospiscare. To know that our staff feel motivated and happy in their work is a wonderful compliment for our organisation."

The programme, which was established six years ago, is based entirely on feedback from staff, who are invited to complete a detailed questionnaire on all aspects of working life, including company leadership, employee wellbeing, relationships with managers, relationships with colleagues, feelings towards your company, personal growth, fair dealing over pay and benefits, and the organisation's record for giving something back to society.

Jonathan Austen, CEO of Best Companies, said: "I would like to congratulate Hospiscare on their outstanding achievement. Our role at Best Companies is to set a rigorous benchmark so that organisations can become even better employers. This year it is encouraging to see that the number of companies entering the accreditation scheme for excellence in workplace engagement has grown by over twenty percent."

Hospiscare is a local, independent charity which provides expert support and care to patients with terminal illness and their families, completely free of charge. Services include full in-patient care, day care, community nursing and even complementary therapy. It employs around 200 staff who are based at its hospice and day care centre in Exeter, as well as community nurses, charity shop manager and other healthcare specialists who work across its area which covers Exeter, Mid and East Devon.

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Notes for editors

About Best Companies Ltd.

Best Companies has been making an impact on workplace engagement since 2000. As the name behind The Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work For lists, Best Companies conducts the largest employee engagement survey in the world with more than 3000 organisations participating. Best Companies also produces an accreditation scheme for organisations that demonstrate high levels of employee engagement. For more information visit www.bestcompanies.co.uk

Accreditation The Accreditation scheme, developed by Best Companies, is based on a star rating system where one star is first class, two stars are outstanding, and three stars are extraordinary. Organisational successes have been defined using data from the 2009 Best Companies to Work For survey which involved surveying over 168,900 employees from 795 companies. The Best Companies survey is designed to measure employee engagement and uses 70 questions to gain a comprehensive view of employee engagement across eight factors. Every company that goes for Best Companies Accreditation is given a Best Companies Index score (BCI). This score (on a scale of 1 to 1000) is defined from employees' responses to the sixteen key questions within the Best Companies survey. 'Star Status' is determined by the 'BCI' score and the specific cut-off points for One, Two, and Three Star Accreditation remain constant year on year. **Accreditation in 2009** This year, 795 organisations entered the Best Companies Accreditation. This is a 21 per cent increase from the number of organisations entering last year. Of these companies 685 completed the final process and Best Companies received survey responses from over 168,900 employees since September. Overall, 414 organisations achieved Star Status accreditation this year:

- 55 organisations achieved Three Star Status
- 150 organisations achieved Two Star Status
- 209 organisations achieved One Star Status

Hospiscare cares

We are experts in caring for the dying. Hospiscare supports people with life-threatening illness, their relatives and carers. Each patient is different and our specialist staff help people to make the most of life, meeting physical emotional, social and spiritual needs.

Hospiscare is a charity

We provide care and support to all those who need it, free of charge. We need to raise over £3m every year from individuals, groups and businesses.

We are proud that 90p in every pound donated is spent directly on patient care. We are an independent local hospice service, providing care in Exeter, mid and east Devon.

16 charity shops and a successful lottery help us to raise the funds we need to provide our service every year.

Hospiscare needs your support

For more information visit the Hospiscare website at: www.hospiscare.co.uk