

Gemma Harper, Hardy Services

Winner of the Sub36 Employee of the Year Award and Lifelong Learner Award 2017

Based in Padiham

Why did you enter Sub36 Awards 2017?

My company entered me into the awards for Employee of the Year 2017. Not long after my application had been submitted, I was approached by Lancashire Business View to say they had identified my entry as also being suitable for the Lifelong Learner Award Category. I took their advice and came out as the winner for both!

How did you find the entry and judging process?

The online entry process was simple but detailed in parts. The judging process was great, I felt quite nervous at first but all the judges were very friendly and calming.

I never thought I'd be able to talk for 10 minutes in the presentation section, but the time went really quickly! Overall, I found the entry and judging process an enjoyable experience and was a great opportunity to meet other young people who are making a difference in Lancashire.

What was it like to win on the night?

It was brilliant! Winning Employee of the Year was excellent, but then when I heard my name for a second time it didn't feel real! It did take a while to sink in... I was really chuffed and grateful to the judges for their decision.

I have had so many people approaching me in person and via LinkedIn, so many congratulations, it's a great feeling knowing I was a double winner. It's an achievement for both me and my company.

How have you benefitted from winning the award?

I've picked up some valuable experiences from the process from application through to collecting my awards. Winning the awards is something that will be beneficial on my CV and my company has seen further potential in me with a second development plan underway aiming to expand my skills set even further.

Do you have any words of advice for those thinking of entering this year?

Make the time, think positively and just go for it!

**“It's an achievement for
me and my company.”**

