

SMaRT thinking wins national award!

Nottingham Community Housing Association's Support Management and Response Team (SMaRT), were selected from a group of highly commendable finalists as Winner of the **Ceretas IT Innovator Award 2007**.



Earlier this month, representatives from the team and service users were presented with the award at a ceremony hosted by Esther Rantzen in London. The award recognises SMaRT's achievement in developing an integrated support and telecare service for NCHA tenants in receipt of Care and Support across the East Midlands. Over 600 service users now benefit from the scheme, which provides emotional and practical support throughout the day and night. A mobile response team is also available to respond to any emergencies, using one of SMaRT's fleet of NCHA Smart cars.

Pioneered by John Bartle, Head of Housing with Care and Support at NCHA, the project has developed into a unique working partnership between staff and service users. The SMaRT service gives people confidence to live their life safely with greater choice and independence and with greater inclusion in the community.



SMaRT Business Manager Sarah Burroughes commented that, *"We are so proud to have won. Assistive technology contributes to the whole package of service provision, but the key is the SERVICE. SMaRT is focused on enabling and empowering people to seek the support they need when they need it, not when we think they should have it!"*