

**Press Release: February 2009**

## Business Advice Turns Gold



Guildford, 9th February, 2009. Surrey Community Action is pleased to congratulate its Business and Social Enterprise Adviser, Edward Baker, who is the first in the UK to become a SFEDI qualified Business Link Broker, gold standard, and one of the first in Surrey to become a qualified SFEDI Business Advisor.

SFEDI is the Government recognised UK Standards Setting Body for Business Support and Business Enterprise, which researches leading practice and sets standards, principles and guidelines for the business community.

Ruth Lowbridge, Executive Director of SFEDI says, "The Business Link Broker accreditation represents a new national standard for business advice in the UK, and we are delighted to be able to make one of the first awards to Edward Baker, who meets our gold standard for business advice."

Edward, who completed the accreditation process in January 2009 says, "The qualification process can take up to 18 months, but is well worth it, as the business advice sector in the UK becomes increasingly more regulated."

SFEDI only endorses exemplary products, programmes and services that clearly meet the needs of the target audience, are proven in practice and demonstrate innovation. It is therefore an independent recognition that an organisation's

product, programme or service is well designed, delivered to consistent standards and is of world-class quality.

Edward Baker works extensively with Surrey Community Action's network of voluntary organisations as well as acting as the social enterprise business advisor for Business Link. He co-ordinates the Surrey Network for Social Enterprise (SNSE), which comprises 200 members and aims to help, support and inform social enterprises in Surrey. Edward is also director of the South East Social Enterprise Network (SESEN), which aims to shape regional policy, influence national strategies and support social enterprise across the 6 counties of the south east.

More information on SFEDI can be found on their website: [www.sfedi.co.uk](http://www.sfedi.co.uk)

For more information, or if you would like business advice, contact Edward Baker, Email: [edwardb@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:edwardb@surreyca.org.uk), or tel: 01483 459292 ext 204.

*Surrey Community Action is resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector across Surrey through access to advice, training, funding and advocacy. Surrey Community Action actively promotes volunteering and our website [www.surreyca.org.uk](http://www.surreyca.org.uk) can signpost you to local opportunities at a volunteer centre near you. Help is especially needed in health or as a school governor.*

If you are interested in volunteering the details of local volunteer centres in Surrey are on our website: [www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm](http://www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm)