



Making the Difference

AWARDS



2024

#VertasGroupAwards24

Running Order

6:30pm

Arrival, welcome drinks and canapés

Music from Scintillo Quartet

7:00pm

Guests seated

7:30pm

Dinner served

8:45pm

Welcome from our host Stephen Foster, experienced broadcaster invites...
Ian Surtees, Vertas Group Chief Executive Officer and Duncan Johnson, Vertas Group Non-Executive Director,
to open the awards

9:00pm

Commencement of awards ceremony

A thank you from Suffolk County Council

Councillor Richard Smith, Suffolk County Council Deputy Leader

A game of Heads and Tails to raise money for CRUK

Cheque presentation to Charity of the Year - Cancer Research UK

By Beth Wade, Vertas Group Head of Marketing and
Zara Zurowski, Vertas Group Head of Culture and Policy

Awards continue

9:50pm

Kate Innes, Vertas Group Chief People Officer and Jamie Smith, Vertas Group Chief Finance Officer
'close the awards'

10:00pm

Raffle and Auction to be announced

10:20pm

Disco - DJ LeeJ

12:00am

Carriages!

Welcome from Ian Surtees

*Welcome to the Vertas Group
Making the Difference Awards*

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this year's 'Making the Difference Awards.' Tonight, we gather to celebrate and honour the dedication and hard work of our outstanding colleagues.

This event stands as a testament to our continued commitment to recognising the invaluable contributions of our team. Every year, the Vertas Group Directors and I are impressed by the sheer number and quality of nominations received from all corners of our organisation. A big thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate a colleague. For those who were nominated but didn't make it to the shortlist, your efforts are truly appreciated, and I hope the recognition from your peers serves as motivation.

A huge congratulations to all of tonight's finalists. Reaching this stage is an impressive achievement in itself. I'd also like to extend my gratitude to our generous sponsors and supply chain partners, especially our headline sponsor, Bidfood, whose support has made this event possible.

This year has been marked by tremendous accomplishments. We were proud to be shortlisted in

the Reuter Events Sustainability Awards and a finalist for Environmental and Sustainability Awards at the EADT Business Awards, reflecting our dedication to sustainable practices and leadership.

Our commitment to excellence was further highlighted by the RoSPA Gold Medal Award, which honours six consecutive Gold Awards. Across the Group, we have made a huge impact for Cancer Research UK through our new social value initiative, Exec Experiences, a true reflection of our collective effort to make the difference.

Lastly, I'd like to express special thanks to Paul Milsom and his team for providing us with this wonderful venue once again. I hope you all have a fantastic evening, and congratulations to all our deserving finalists.



Ian Surtees MBA FloD

Group Chief Executive Officer, Vertas Group

A message from Cancer Research UK

Vertas Group's Charity Partner

Cancer Research UK is deeply appreciative of Vertas Group's ongoing support and partnership. We simply can't thank the entire team enough for being such passionate champions of our cause.

This year, Vertas Group took on new challenges through an initiative, Exec Experiences. Vertas Group has been a charity partner of CRUK since 2017, and in the charity year 2023/24 they have raised an impressive £28,109.00 through their fundraising.

We've loved seeing the innovation and passion behind the Exec Experiences initiative, where the team truly pushed their limits. From climbing Snowdon and participating in bike rides and half marathons to organising a golf day, your commitment to supporting us has been nothing short of inspiring.

Thanks to your dedication, we're able to continue our involvement in ground breaking research initiatives, including developing the world's first vaccine aimed at preventing lung cancer. Researchers at the University of Oxford, the Francis Crick Institute, and University College London have received £1.7 million in funding from us and the CRIS Cancer Foundation to develop LungVax—a vaccine to help prevent lung cancer in people at high risk.



The more money raised, the faster we can make breakthroughs in cancer research, helping more people live longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer. Every pound counts towards bringing us closer to life-saving advancements in treatment and early diagnosis. The funds raised through the Exec Experiences will directly fuel our mission to beat cancer, transforming the lives of patients and families.

The enthusiasm and commitment Vertas Group has shown year after year is truly inspiring. Thank you once again Vertas Group. Together, we are beating cancer.



www.cruk.org.uk

[@CR_UK](https://twitter.com/CR_UK)



Raffle/Auction

This year's Making the Difference Awards will feature an auction, a fun and exciting way to support Vertas Group's charity of the year, Cancer Research UK, whilst also giving you the chance to walk away with a great prize.

Raffle

- £500 Handpicked Hotels Gift Voucher
- ICE Battery Powered Stick Vacuum - **ICE**
- x4 Tickets to a Merlin Park from March 2025 - Legoland, Alton Towers, Chessington, Thorpe Park, Warwick Castle - **Unilever & Walls**
- View from the Shard and Marco Pierre White's London Steakhouse Co Champagne Celebration Dining, Three Courses with Sides for Two - **HFP Foods**
 - Dinner for 2 @ Milsoms - **Milsoms**
- 1 night stay with breakfast at Milsoms Kegrave Hall, Milsoms Dedham or The Pier at Harwich (Sunday to Thursday) - **Milsoms**
- Lavazza Home Coffee Machine - **Blue Cap Coffee**
 - £200 Love to Shop Vouchers - **Britvic**
 - Karcher Robot Vac - **Karcher**
 - Hetty Vac - **Candor**
 - £50 Amazon Voucher - **iVO Group**
 - Kitchen Aid Mixer - **Alliance**
- Lochlea Distillery Sowing Edition First Crop Single Malt Scotch Whiskey & 2 x Fullers Vintage Ales 2019 & 2020
- Lochlea Distillery Sowing Edition Second Crop Single Malt Scotch Whiskey & 2 x Fullers Vintage Ales 2021 & 2022
 - £50 One for All Voucher
 - £50 One for All Voucher

Auction

- x2 Tickets to see Wicked at the Apollo Victoria Theatre London - **ATG / Team Wicked UK**
- Private Chef for an Evening - **John McBride, Associate Director - Catering & FM**



Thank you...

*...to all the businesses
who have donated
raffle/auction prizes.*

Categories



*Inspiring
Leader*

GOING THE
EXTRA MILE

SUSTAINABILITY
AND
INNOVATION

Customer
1st

Client
RECOGNITION

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

☆☆☆
Specialist
of the Year

COLLEAGUES
CHAMPION

TEAM
of the Year

COLLEAGUE
of the year

Nominees

The finalists for the

Making the Difference

AWARDS

2024 are...

Inspiring Leader Award

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Alliance Local East Anglia are proud to sponsor the 2024 Making the Difference Awards. We are a principal catering equipment supplier for the hospitality and public sectors in the East Anglian region.

With a portfolio of over 20,000 leading products to choose from we offer a full and extensive range including capital equipment, cutlery, crockery, glassware, disposables, cleaning supplies and much more. Being based in Norwich and having access to a 120-vehicle strong fleet means we are perfectly positioned to service and meet the demands of all businesses situated in Cambridge, Colchester, Norwich, Chelmsford, Ipswich, Peterborough and the surrounding areas.

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This award recognises our Inspiring Leaders who develop and motivate their teams to deliver service excellence, in their chosen speciality.



Jean Thompson

Deputy Head of FM, Vertas Derbyshire

Jean has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills as Deputy of Vertas Derbyshire Limited. She fosters a culture of collaboration, innovation, and accountability, inspiring her team to achieve outstanding results. She has shown great empathy working with stakeholders, upholding Vertas' values. She maintains high standards of professionalism and is committed to continuous improvement.

“ Jean is an exceptional leader and developer of people at Vertas and deserves recognition. ”

Zara Zurowski

Head of Culture and Policy



Natalie Finnigan

Associate Director, Cost Consultancy, Concertus Design and Property Consultants

Over the past year, Natalie has demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic vision, and an innovative approach. She fosters a collaborative and inclusive working environment, values personal and professional development, and empowers her team to achieve their best.

“ Natalie's leadership has made a remarkable impact on the team, and her resilience and problem-solving skills have been truly inspirational. ”

Nigel Lucker

Client at The University of Suffolk



Rachel Nellist

Lead Operations Manager, Churchill Catering

Rachel's exceptional leadership has been crucial in driving her colleague's success. Her ability to inspire those around her is truly remarkable. She leads by example, demonstrating a strong work ethic, resilience, and a commitment to excellence. Her exceptional communication skills and empathy create a supportive and inclusive work environment.

“ Rachel's commitment to fostering a positive work culture, promoting work-life balance, and encouraging growth make her an exceptional leader. ”

Victoria Jardine

Catering Manager, Churchill Catering

Going the Extra Mile Award

Sponsored by



Ceetech are a Mechanical & Electrical building services engineering company with offices in Ipswich and Manchester operating across East Anglia, the Home Counties, Greater London and Manchester.

Our many years in the industry allows us to deliver unsurpassed levels of workmanship and our expertise enables us to achieve the best possible outcomes in our client projects.

We have established ourselves as one of the leading building services contractors and our complete service includes the integration of not just mechanical and electrical installations, but those that make use of renewable energy sources. Focusing on major developments and Corporate Social Responsibility projects, our team possesses decades of combined experience.

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 01473 830095

This award recognises an individual or team who has gone above and beyond in the course of their work to provide service excellence or support to colleagues.



Bobbie Harrison

Catering Manager, Churchill Catering

When Bobbie started as Catering Manager earlier this year, she initially faced several challenges. Despite the obstacles, she has built a strong team that has flourished under her management. She has promoted sustainable practices and shown great resilience and determination to take the Café to new heights.

“Bobbie’s dedication and positive attitude make her a standout employee with great potential.”

Claire Wilden

Operations Manager, Churchill Catering



Terry Rudland

Financial Reporting Manager, Vertas Group

This year, Vertas moved from Exchequer accounting software to Dynamics 365, requiring an increased effort from Operations and the Finance team. At times, this process has been tense, providing highs and lows, but it is Terry’s demeanour and work ethic that has seen us drive the Cleaning team billing and cash collection into a better place.

“Terry’s input should be recognised for overseeing this transition and demonstrating the Vertas values of agility and adaptability.”

Bill Farley

Head of Cleaning and Specialist Services



Cleaning Management Team

Cambridge Regional College, Vertas

Suzi, Tina, and Maribelle from the Cleaning Management team have swiftly transformed the Cambridge Regional College cleaning service. The team has provided a positive experience and demonstrated professionalism and efficiency. Their work has exceeded expectations, tackling every challenge with attention to detail and reliability. Their proactive approach to addressing potential issues demonstrates their commitment to customer satisfaction.

“The team’s willingness to go the extra mile on several occasions deserves recognition.”

Les Black

Client at Cambridge Regional College

Sustainability and Innovation Award

Sponsored by



Founded in 1980, DCS began its journey as a leading provider of Disposables and Catering Supplies, with a steadfast commitment to delivering excellence in both products and services. Over the years, we have earned the trust of prominent enterprises across the United Kingdom by offering a wide range of catering and hygiene solutions.

Recently, DCS expanded its horizons by launching A Good Decision, a new brand dedicated to sourcing ethically produced, sustainable consumables. This addition allows DCS to continue supplying the market with innovative products that offer great value while upholding our mission to promote environmental responsibility.

As the UK's fastest-growing independent supplier of non-food consumables, we take pride in being deeply embedded in the communities we serve. Our ethos is built on continuous learning and improvement, driven by a commitment to making tomorrow better through sustainable practices and innovative solutions that enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness for our clients.

 www.dcs.supplies

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 @DCSLtdCo

This award highlights a colleague or team who exceptionally demonstrate two of our company values, sustainability and innovation.



Sarah Layton

Head of Sustainability and Social Value, Vertas Group

Sarah's focus for the business is always on sustainability. She is dedicated to reducing Vertas Group's carbon emissions while delivering excellent service to clients. She has extensive knowledge of sustainability and has driven outstanding results with plans to achieve the Group's Net Zero goal. Sarah's hard work has led to significant reductions in carbon emissions and nominations for sustainability awards.

“ Sarah is calm under pressure, caring, and leads by example. ”

Tina Hawes

Office and Quality Assistant,
Vertas Group



Victoria Jardine

Catering Manager, Churchill Catering

As the Manager of the Courtyard Café in Calderglen Country Park, Victoria is constantly looking for new ways to improve the café's offerings to customers. From a pop-up pizza stall to rearranging the café to fit an indoor ice cream parlour, Victoria has introduced various new ideas. This year, Victoria has focused on social value, hosting events like the Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club and a weekly Spanish language course.

“ It is exciting to see what innovative ideas Victoria brings to the Group in 2025. ”

Rachel Nellist

Lead Operations Manager,
Churchill Catering



Lee Howes

Head of Fleet Services, Vertas

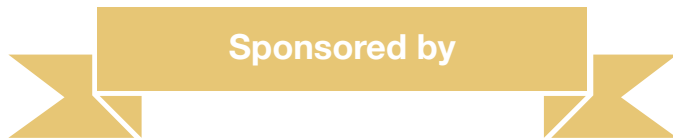
Lee is nominated for his exceptional work throughout the year. He has been instrumental in providing the data needed for the Group's carbon tracker, which supports the Group's goal of reaching Net Zero. He is always willing to help and supply information to support with reporting whenever he can.

“ Lee's passion for fleet and his staff is evident; he always works hard to go above and beyond, and nothing is ever too much trouble. ”

Tina Hawes

Office and Quality Assistant,
Vertas Group

Customer 1st Award



BCN is a leading Cloud MSP and Digital Transformation specialist.

We deliver exceptional services through transparent communication, teamwork and efficiency, in relationships that are built to last.

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We enable organisations to operate without limits, accelerate innovation and drive long-term success.

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This award recognises a colleague or team who go beyond normal expectations to 'make the difference' for customers and clients, embedding the Vertas Group company values.



Stuart Harrison

Mobile Officer, Oakpark Security

Stuart is the textbook example of a colleague who goes the extra mile. He is always keen to offer new ideas on how the operation can be improved so we can deliver the best service to our clients. Over the past six months, Stuart has attained a 100% KPI score from his three clients for delivering all scheduled services on time and on specification, the highest score in the team.

“ Stuart cares deeply about providing a truly outstanding service every day and spends his working life putting the customer first. ”

Edward Smith

Head of Oakpark Security



Mark Francis

Regional FM Manager, Vertas

Mark has been a loyal and dedicated member across the Suffolk County Council estate for several years now and enjoys a great relationship with the clients he supports. Mark works closely with customers to ensure they receive 5-star service, and his team regularly receives feedback on how well they support the staff within the building.

“ Mark truly believes in the Vertas values, and the team's success is down to his dedication and leadership skills. ”

Lee Johns

Head of FM, Vertas



Jamil Ullah

Business Support Officer, Opus People Solutions

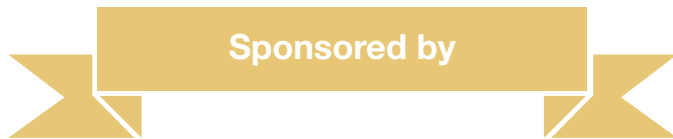
Since joining Opus' Business Support Team, Jamil has made an incredible impact. He has set the standard for his colleagues, consistently achieving an average first response time of under 2 hours. He is regularly praised by stakeholders for his professionalism and efficiency. Jamil's ability to handle difficult conversations and approach sensitive issues with ease highlights his exceptional skills.

“ It is down to Jamil's dedication that workers choose to collaborate with Opus time and time again. ”

Abbie Nelson

Business Support Manager,
Opus People Solutions

Client Recognition Award



Our mission is to offer insurance that feels less like a task and more like a valuable partnership.

At Sona Insurance Brokers, we provide comprehensive insurance solutions for business and personal clients across the UK and beyond. "Sona" means wisdom, and we bring that wisdom to every insurance decision, tailoring coverage to individual needs. As trusted brokers, we design and manage insurance programs, ensuring the best deals and supporting risk management. Our expertise spans general insurance and risk management, covering buildings, contents, business interruption, liabilities, cyber risks, and more. We guide businesses through every phase, from startup protection to growth and sale, offering tailored solutions that evolve with their journey.

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Clients are invited to nominate Vertas Group individuals or teams to recognise the exceptional service they provide.



Bristol Hippodrome Cleaning Team

Vertas

The Bristol Hippodrome Cleaning Team is always friendly and professional. In particular, they work tirelessly to care for the Hippodrome day in and day out. Each team member is incredible in their own way and leaves the customers feeling incredibly proud of their building.

**“ There is not a team more
deserving of recognition
for the great work they do. ”**

Kerry Lewis

Theatre Manager at Bristol Hippodrome



Steven Ryles, Steve Spinks

Associate - Design and Senior Quantity Surveyor, Concertus Design and Property Consultants

Steven Ryles and Steve Spinks are nominated for their exceptional service at Concertus Design and Property Consultants. Their consistent performance, dedication, and ability to collaborate and elevate the team truly sets them apart. They have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the Group's core values, and their exceptional customer service makes them stand out. Their dedication and expertise shine brightly.

**“ Both Steven and Steve are
true teachers of what
customer service really is. ”**

Nigel Lucker

Client at The University of Suffolk



Kelly-Ann Knott

Operations Support Manager, Vertas

Kelly recently secured a two-year catering contract with the Ormiston Trust and Thomas Wolsey due to her outstanding food, great customer service, and hard work. She has built good relationships with clients, updates them on menu changes, and adapts menus to cater to all students.

**“ Kelly takes pride in her work,
often going above and beyond
to make theme days extra
special for students. ”**

Laura Goodwin

Lead Operations Manager, Vertas

Lifetime Achievement Award

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Matrix is a leading workforce management solutions provider, connecting people to work and transforming the employment landscape. We empower organisations, talent, and suppliers to thrive through our innovative technology and comprehensive solutions, while actively contributing to social mobility in the communities we serve.

Our services create opportunities for all, driving growth and success across every corner of the employment ecosystem. What we do:

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- **Matrix Milestone** for expert project-based service management, ensuring flexible, cost-effective, and high-quality outcomes
- **Matrix Talent Pool** for strategic resource management, providing curated, high-calibre talent banks to meet future workforce needs
- **Matrix Payroll** for seamless, compliant payroll services that ensure timely, accurate payments and full regulatory adherence
- **Matrix Umbrella** for fair employment contracts, offering transparent, low-cost services with 100% HMRC compliance guarantees



www.teammatrix.com



0844 371 4726

This accolade recognises a member of our team who has consistently developed their service area, team and added value, year in, year out.



Ron Milton

Facilities Officer, Vertas

Ron is the epitome of professionalism and dedication. His work ethic, adaptability, and willingness to help others make him an invaluable member of the team. Ron approaches every task with a positive attitude, always ready with a smile and a friendly greeting.

“ **His approachable and helpful nature, combined with his consistent eagerness to go above and beyond, make him a truly deserving candidate for the Lifetime Achievement Award.** ”

Neil Bland

Unison Rep



Karren Daniel-Montgomery

Senior Photocopier Operator, Vertas

Karren has worked for Vertas for 31 years, and despite changes to the location and people she reports to, her dedication has remained the same. Karren is the only person in the Vertas Print service and completes print work for all the Vertas Group entities along with external clients. She is highly professional and receives nothing but praise for the service she provides. She has a positive ‘can do’ attitude and is very respected by all who have the pleasure of knowing her.

“ **Karren is a real credit to Verse and the wider Group.** ”

Sarah Hunt

Operations Manager, Vertas



Rosie Sparrow

Pensions Administrator, Schools' Choice

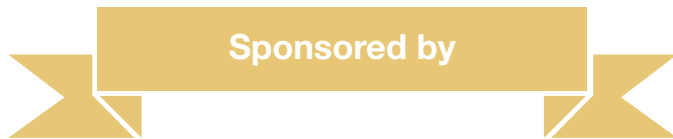
Since 1993, Rosie has been part of Schools' Choice, working tirelessly through all the changes in the company, colleagues, and services. She is the most incredible support to her team, and if there is ever a need, she will work extra hours to ensure everything is completed on time. Despite the pensions process changing significantly, Rosie has remained determined and accurate in her delivery of service.

“ **Rosie's commitment is admirable and infectious.** ”

Anna Cooksey

Business Services and Development Manager, Schools' Choice

Specialist of the Year Award



accentfresh

Accent Fresh Ltd is a family run, regional food service business based in Downham Market, West Norfolk.

Established in 1996 we are a truly regional business specialising in the supply of fruits, vegetables, dairy produce and other chilled foods and ingredients with a particular emphasis on sourcing the best that East Anglia has to offer whether that is local fruits, salads and vegetables or cheeses or other locally produced foods and ingredient.

 www.accentfresh.co.uk

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 @accentfresh

This award seeks to reward and recognise our service specialists who innovate and develop their area of expertise for the benefit of Vertas Group, its clients and customers.



Ashley Dawson

Operations Accountant, Vertas Group

Ashley has been instrumental in enhancing the Catering team's efficiency by creating user-friendly documents and improving business retention. She fosters a culture of openness and continuous learning within the team, guiding new users with key advice. Ashley's dedication to quality of service and innovative solutions underscores her role as a key asset.

“ Ashley's expertise and supportive nature have made her an invaluable member of the team. ”

Susan Mahoney

Lead for Education Catering, Vertas



Jazz Dhaliwal

Operations Manager, Opus People Solutions

Jazz has significantly contributed to Opus People Solutions' success. Particularly in the West Midlands, she has leveraged partnerships with Jobs Centre Plus, Department for Work and Pensions, colleges, and schools. Her collaborative approach enabled the opening of The Link, a one stop shop for jobs and training in Walsall, and garnered attention from influential figures, including local mayors.

“ Jazz's efforts in attracting future talent and her passion for social value have been pivotal, promising great future benefits for Opus and its council partners. ”

Ben Dixon

Head of West Midlands Workforce Solutions, Opus People Solutions



Leon Page

Team Leader, Diamond View

Leon has significantly contributed to Diamond View's success, rapidly upskilling to help develop the business. He has completely renewed the operational team and has been instrumental in training and developing the team. His achievements include a major cleaning project at Ipswich Town Football Stadium and completing an environmental clean for a waste management facility.

“ Leon's work ethic and leadership in delivering specialised services are commendable. ”

Stephen Whiting

Head of Specialist Services, Diamond View

Colleagues' Champion Award

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Together, we're delivering technical solutions for a better society and a Net Zero UK.

Dalkia is one of the UK's leading technical and energy services providers at the forefront of delivering net zero solutions. We are committed to building quality relationships to drive long-term value for our clients through innovative solutions and services.

Our people, with their diversity of skills and perspectives, make us who we are. Today, our 4,000-strong team of experts and advisors are partnering with clients and communities on some of the country's most exciting and demanding projects to provide energy, engineering, facilities management and specialist services.

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This award recognises an individual who works in partnership with others, has supported their colleagues and is always there to help team mates achieve success.



Fay Starling

Lead Business Partner, Vertas Group

As the Lead Business Partner, Fay has demonstrated exceptional skills in coaching the new people advisory team. She has a brilliant ability to connect with the team, creating a positive and inclusive work environment. Fay has a natural talent for identifying the team's strengths and opportunities, providing the guidance and support they need whilst encouraging autonomy.

“Fay's strong work ethic, commitment to excellence, and integrity make her a true role model”

Zara Zurowski

Head of Culture and Policy



Louise Kendrick

Quantity Surveyor, Concertus Design and Property Consultants

Louise has been a remarkable addition to the Concertus team. Since starting as a trainee, she has brought a fresh perspective and eagerness to learn. Now a Quantity Surveyor, Louise is dedicated to her role, skillfully navigating the complexities of each project. Her ability to take initiative and tackle tasks head-on has proven her immense value to the team. Louise has exceptional interpersonal skills that shine through in her interactions with colleagues.

“Louise's blend of professionalism, kindness, and humour is a rare find. It is clear that Louise has a bright future ahead.”

Jessica Etienne

Associate Director - Commercial,
Concertus Design and Property
Consultants



Tom Mardell

Application Support Officer, Schools' Choice

Tom is extremely dedicated to his role as Application Support Officer within Schools' Choice. In the relatively short time since joining the Group, Tom has worked hard with an impressive ability to grasp new concepts quickly. Numerous colleagues have praised Tom's friendly demeanour and commitment to resolving concerns promptly. And, beyond his core responsibilities, Tom actively seeks opportunities to assist peers.

“Tom's positive attitude and dedication make him an exemplary colleague.”

Anna Cooksey

Finance and Business Service Manager,
Schools' Choice

Team of the Year Award

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Here at McCain, we're proud to support British farming. We're the UK's largest purchaser of British potatoes and a leading supporter of the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme.

Sustainability is at the heart of our purpose at McCain. We're committed to smart and sustainable farming, and are working towards implementing regenerative agricultural practices across 100% of our worldwide potato acreage by 2030. Together Let's Celebrate Homegrown.



www.mccainfoodservice.co.uk



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We are looking for teams that have pulled together to achieve something great. Maybe they've developed a new way of working, achieved success on a joint project or improved the service standards for our clients.



IT Team

Vertas Group

During the recent rollout of mobile phones to the Heads of Kitchens, the IT team were committed to providing the best possible service. The support, patience and knowledge were invaluable in setting up the new mobiles, and the team offered one-to-one support as needed. This new business improvement from the IT team means that Heads of Kitchens have more responsibility in managing their own teams and are now able to support each other better.

“ The IT team have done an excellent job and remained just a phone call away throughout. ”

Joanne Newton

Operations Manager Catering, Vertas



Landmark House FM Team

Vertas

The Landmark House FM team are nominated for their exceptional work. Their efficiency, willingness to assist, and constant cheerfulness stand out. The team approach their roles with warmth and a positive attitude. They are a skilled team; this was demonstrated during a recent training session when Mark and Anne displayed remarkable compassion when handling a sensitive situation.

“ The FM team have a welcoming nature, always greeting people with a smile, and they are a genuine pleasure to work alongside. ”

Bryony Cooney

Client at Suffolk County Council



Schools' Choice Data Protection Team

Schools' Choice

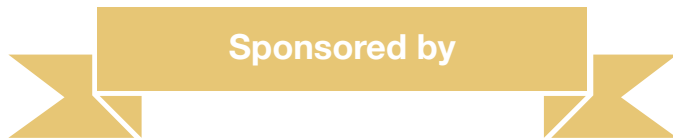
The Schools' Choice Data Protection Team has excelled in managing a significant increase in subject access and freedom of information requests. They have efficiently handled a vast amount of data, collaborating well under pressure and meeting tight deadlines without needing extra hours. Their dedication, proactive approach, and teamwork has been outstanding.

“ The team's ability to remain approachable and supportive, even in stressful times, is commendable. ”

Anna Cooksey

Finance and Business Service Manager,
Schools' Choice

Colleague of the Year Award



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Our colleagues are truly known for 'making the difference'. This award recognises the significant contribution that an individual has made to the Vertas group, our clients, and customers.



Michele Jackson

Delivery Manager, Opus People Solutions

Michele, with her pivotal role in overseeing the delivery of business verticals across Managed Service Providers and Opus Teach, exemplifies leadership and dedication. Beyond her vast responsibilities, Michele's commitment to enhancing cross-department collaboration stands out. Her initiative in marketing, bid-writing, and developing professional materials has coined the term "Michele-up", symbolising excellence.

“ Michele’s mentorship, innovative problem-solving, and forward-thinking approach to improving processes and team development highlight her as a deserving nominee. ”

Emma George

Support Officer, Opus People Solutions



Matthew Smith

Associate Building Surveying, Concertus Design and Property Consultants

Matt has consistently demonstrated professionalism and positivity, exceeding client expectations and fostering solution-oriented outcomes. He builds exceptional relationships with clients and has helped diversify our portfolio. Recognised for his positive attitude and collaborative nature, Matt goes the extra mile in his flexible approach to work, offering extensive support to others across the business.

“ Matt’s kindness and compassion make him an invaluable team member and friend. ”

Amber Welham

Bid Writer, Concertus Design and Property Consultants



Tina Sharpe

Area Cleaning Manager, Vertas

Tina has been a constant presence as a dedicated Operations Manager. She is hard working, serving major clients like Havebury Housing and Cambridge Regional College with exceptional commitment. Her efforts, including successfully addressing a dip in KPIs at Cambridge Regional College, has earned her high praise from clients and colleagues alike.

“ Tina’s dedication and results-driven approach have supported the team to exceed our service delivery. ”

Bill Farley

Head of Cleaning and Specialist Services



Thank you...

*...to all of our sponsors
for your support in funding and
promoting our ninth annual
awards, we look forward to inviting
you back in future years.*

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Expanding Our Range with Sustainability at the Core

DCS Ltd is delighted to introduce an expanded product range, made possible by the launch of our A Good Decision brand, which reflects our commitment to sustainability. This new brand allows us to source ethically-produced, environmentally-friendly consumables, ensuring we offer innovative solutions that align with our vision for a more sustainable future.

A Good Decision has allowed us to enhance our offering with a wider selection of eco-conscious products, providing high-quality, sustainable choices that not only meet your business needs but also support environmental responsibility, benefiting both your organisation and the planet.

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Spear Shield, based in Ipswich, Suffolk, is an award-winning cybersecurity partner with over 30 years of combined experience. Specialising in human-centric security, they work with organisations of all sizes across Suffolk, East Anglia, and the UK. Their expertise helps businesses identify, continuously monitor, and mitigate advanced cyber risks. With cybersecurity as their sole focus, the Spear Shield team takes an approach that prioritises understanding core business drivers, challenging conventional cybersecurity strategies, and enabling customers to confidently articulate risk and exceed their cybersecurity needs.

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Barnes Construction, established in 1978, is a Suffolk based construction company. Working throughout East Anglian, Essex and East London, within a number of sectors namely, Education, Health, Leisure and Retail, Commercial and Industrial and refurbishment projects.

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*We extend our gratitude and thanks to our
valued supply chain partner, Radnor, for
providing beverages this evening.*

Thank you...



Ian Surtees, MBA

Group Chief Executive Officer

The board of directors at Vertas Group extend their sincere gratitude to our esteemed sponsors for their invaluable support in funding our ninth annual awards. Additionally, they extend their congratulations to all the finalists and winners of this evening's awards.



Keith Buet

Chief Operating Officer



Kate Innes

Group Chief People Officer



Jamie Smith

Group Chief Finance Officer



Matthew Self

Managing Director, Concertus



Brad Sinclair

Managing Director, Opus People Solutions







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