

Press Release

Winners announced of the LEO Dublin City Women in Business Network Awards

- **Rita Smyth of Role Players for Training won the ‘Rising Star’ Award**
- **Anita Donoghue of The Hair Café Salon claimed ‘Best Start Up’ Award**
- **Over 100 businesswomen from start-ups and SME’s in Dublin City in attendance at key networking event**

12th December 2017 – The LEO Dublin City Women in Business Network Awards were presented last night to Anita Donoghue of The Hair Café Salon and Rita Smyth of Role Players for Training. The awards, which celebrate exceptional women in business in the Dublin City area, took place at the LEO Dublin City Women in Business Christmas Networking Event, in The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin.

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) for Dublin City supports start-ups and growing businesses in the Dublin city area through financial support, training and providing enterprise assistance. One of these support initiatives is the Women in Business Network, which has been in existence for over 10 years and has a membership of over 100 women in business in the Dublin City region.

Award nominees were evaluated under two categories, the ‘Rising Star’ Award and ‘Best Start Up’ Award. The primary award, the **‘Rising Star’** Award, was presented to Rita Smyth of Role Players for Training. The company provides professional corporate role players to support and facilitate learning and development in business and executive education. Rita has won an investment of €1,000 in her business, a €500 voucher towards services provided by LEO Dublin City and a professional video on the company commissioned by LEO Dublin City in order to further promote Role Players for Training.

Anita Donoghue of The Hair Café Salon won the **‘Best Start Up’** Award. The Hair Café is a business that has been in operation since September 2016 and provides a boutique body and mind relaxation service, in addition to hair care. The Hair Café Salon won an investment of €500 and a €500 voucher towards services provided by LEO Dublin City.

Commenting on the Awards, **Mary McSweeney, Deputy Head of Enterprise and Economic Development of LEO Dublin City**, said; *“I am delighted to present these Awards to two worthy businesswomen who are growing and developing their business in the Dublin City region. It is great to see that there has been an increase in women starting their own businesses in the last few years, supported through Local Enterprise Office Dublin City.*

The LEO Dublin City office is here to encourage and support women who are starting a business or are already up and running. We aim to provide access to a support network of services and advice, together with access to likeminded entrepreneurs and start-ups, to maximise their chance for success and growth in their industry.”

Guest speaker at the LEO Dublin City Women in Business Networking event was social media expert Samantha Kelly, also known as ‘The Tweeting Goddess’, who shared valuable tips with the audience

on how to enhance a company's online presence and how to boost social media platforms in order to grow a business.

LEO Dublin City is supported by Dublin City Council, Enterprise Ireland and the EU European Regional Development Fund.

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About LEO Dublin City

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) are the local business centres for new entrepreneurs and existing micro-enterprise and small business owners. The LEOs are the business connection into the Local Authorities, Enterprise Ireland and other State agencies that can help SME's and start-ups to grow their businesses.

LEO Dublin City is one of four LEO offices in County Dublin, and is part of Dublin City Council. Its role is to support micro enterprise development in Dublin City, to maintain growth of local economies and to provide employment opportunities within the Dublin City area. This is done through providing direct financial supports, business information, training, advice on regulations and providing enterprise support.

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/DublinCity/>

Photo Caption:

Pictured here is (L-R) Pauline Logan, Network Manager, LEO Dublin City Women in Business Network, Anita Donoghue, owner of The Hair Café Salon, Rita Smyth, Role Players for Training, and Mary McSweeney Deputy Head of Enterprise and Economic Development of LEO Dublin City.

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