

# South East Business



## Tonbridge care provider wins 'Family Business of the Year' award

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**Hale Place, a Tonbridge-based care provider, has been recognised for its outstanding family ethos at the FSB Celebrating Small Business Awards 2023 UK final, which took place on May 18 at the National Conference Centre in Birmingham.**

The care business is family-owned and managed, with its “happy lives for everyone” approach helping it scoop the national award for ‘Family Business of the Year’, after triumphing in the same category at the FSB South East regional awards in March.

Kevin Hewlett founded Hale Place in 1988, and his wife Mandy joined the business in 2000 heading up the company’s quality assurance agenda and training and development of all employees. Their two sons, Barney and Dudley, now have senior positions in the organisation after undertaking all roles within the care home.

The family’s strong attachment to Hale Place helped them to manage the pandemic, with Kevin and Mandy working for six months without a day off to keep services running for their vulnerable clients, while their sons covered shifts in the home to ensure staffing ratios were compliant and that staff had a break.

Kevin said: “We are absolutely delighted to have won ‘Family Business of the Year’ at the FSB Celebrating Small Business Awards, in recognition of our outstanding commitment to our clients, employees, and each other.

“Trust, accountability, integrity and ethics run through our veins and when you are all pulling together, towards shared objectives, with such a multi-skilled team, you can operate around the demands of the business whilst

enjoying quality family time.

“Balancing the two becomes seamless because you have a support network; this flexibility and balance is the key to longevity.”

Martin McTague, national chair of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), added: “Well done to Hale Place, whose strong connections as a family have helped the business thrive, and who extend their caring approach to staff members and clients, showing the very best side of family-run businesses.

“The FSB Celebrating Small Business Awards recognise the very best in UK business, and give small firms like Hale Place a national spotlight for their excellence and success.

“Given the strong headwinds small businesses and self-employed people are facing, from inflation to energy costs, it’s more vital than ever to lift up and celebrate our fantastic small business community.”

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