

Best Family Business

This award recognises a family-owned or family-managed business which has at least two members of a family involved in running it

► SCALLYWAGS

Emma Jane and Ian Sanderson are spearheading a pet food revolution in Carlisle. They expanded their successful pet grooming business – begun by Emma Jane in a garden shed – to include a raw food business and, earlier this year, moved to new premises on John Street to help them keep up with demand.

Emma’s mum Sue works with Ian in the raw food business and Krystal Flannery, the couple’s daughter-in-law, is a dog groomer with Emma.

Ian, a former broadband engineer, says the business is a vocation rather than a job.

Ian says: “We are here to offer help and advice to people. We offer a support network. I will weigh the dogs who come in and work out the best mix for them.”



► WOODWARD SAFETY HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT LTD



Set up by Tom and Christine Duggan, the health and safety consultancy is truly a family affair, as sons Tom and James also work for the firm.

It moved from its Carlisle base to Energus in Workington earlier this year after it outgrew its premises and offers health and safety training across the country. It has trained hundreds of people since the firm began in 1993, offering courses to military personnel coming out of the armed forces to help them find new careers once they leave the service.

The firm also works with Sellafield Ltd and has just been awarded a new safety contract via the LINC framework for the nuclear complex’s workers. It has also just opened a new training suite in Southern Scotland.

► STAN SHERLOCK ASSOCIATES LTD

The financial planning consultants was set up in 1989 by Stan and Sandra Sherlock and is now run by their son Bobby and his wife Emma. Stan and Sandra’s daughter Kath is celebrating her 15th year with the company this year.

They say the family business ethos runs through the company, which employs 16 people, and they aim to build long-term relationships built on trust. The firm says: “Although not everyone in the business is a Sherlock, the longevity of the staff working within the business and having advisors who have worked here since the business was established cultivates the family environment we all enjoy being part of.”

Last year the firm achieved its highest turnover to date and secured more than 850 mortgages for people in Cumbria.

