

BRAVERY AWARDS INTERVIEW

INTRODUCTION FROM PRESENTER

Two heroic police officers who risked their lives to rescue a family from a burning building, a team of detectives who unraveled the multimillion pound fraud and a super cop who made 219 arrests in under a year were just some of those from Grandton Police Service celebrated today, at a special awards ceremony in central Grandton.

The coveted Total Excellence in Policing Awards recognised a host of dedicated police work across 14 separate categories including Grandton's bravest, its best detective, thief taker of the year, and excellence in victim care.

Thousands of Grandtoners took part in the public vote to choose the winner of this year's Outstanding Bravery of the Year Award which was won by PC Emma Shap and PC Samuel Haynes. I have them both with me here this morning.

Interviewer: Thank you both very much for coming. I can see you both proudly displaying your medals. PC Shap, would you like to describe what happened?

PC Shap: Last September, Samuel and I, arrived on the scene at a raging house fire in West Grandton. We arrived before Grandton Fire Brigade and quickly learned that two people were trapped inside. We had no fire safety equipment or protective clothing, but we had no time and had to act straight away.

INTERVIEWER: PC Haynes. What happened next?

PC HAYNES: In the best traditions of the GPS we threw caution to the wind and charged into the house without any hesitation. I went in first and was almost blown back by the heat. Emma was great. She backed me up and that gave me courage.

We searched blind, in thick black smoke. It was desperate in there, but we could hear sounds from upstairs so carried on. We knew we didn't have much time to rescue those trapped inside. We were beaten back by flames and had to retreat outside. But we knew that if we didn't go back in it would be fatal for those inside, so we took some deep breaths before re-entering the house, through the back door.

PC SHAP: We used our shirts to cover our mouths and noses from the smoke.

INTERVIEWER: Were you frightened?

PC HAYNES: I don't think either of us gave it any thought. We just acted.

INTERVIEWER: So, you went back into the house, risking your own lives, again. What happened then?

PC HAYNES: We managed to make our way up the stairs in the darkness and heat and rescued a man, woman and two children from the property. The children were screaming, and the parents couldn't help. Emma and I had to carry one kid each. I took the boy. He was about 12. I could hardly pick him up. But we managed to get them all out.

INTERVIEWER: Were they all okay?

PC Shap: Once we got them outside I noticed the woman had collapsed. I could hardly breathe myself. She was unresponsive, so I had to give her CPR. It all gets a bit blurry after that. The fire brigade and an ambulance arrived, I can't remember how long it was, and then then the medics took over.

INTERVIEWER: I understand one of the fire officers confirmed that that the family were only minutes away from certain death and that a doctor commented that the woman would have died were it not for PC Shap's CPR.

PC SHAP: It makes you feel proud that you've done a good job.

PC HAYNES: You don't think of it like that at the time. It's what we're trained to do. To do our best to make sure people are okay.

INTERVIEWER: Would you do it again.

PC HAYNES: I wouldn't think twice.

PC SHAP: Definitely.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you very much both of you and well done on winning this year's GPS bravery award. You colleagues and your families should be very proud of you.