

**DRAFT**  
**Embargoed until 8.00am Monday 15 May**

**WeAreTheCity's Rising Star Awards 2017 shortlist shines a spotlight on  
200 remarkable women changing the face of business across the UK**

WeAreTheCity are proud to announce **the shortlist** for their 2017 Rising Star Awards.

The Rising Star Awards, now in their third year, are the only awards to solely focus on the UK's female talent pipeline below management level. Through these annual awards we celebrate 100 individual female contributors who represent the future leaders and role models of tomorrow across twenty different industries. We hope that by raising the profile of our shortlist and winners, we will also encourage organisations to consider how they strengthen the development of their female pipeline and provide opportunities for their female workforce to climb the ranks within their organisations.

The 200-strong shortlist showcases remarkable women within the UK from across 20 categories representing different industries/professions. These include, Banking, Charity, Defence, Entrepreneurs, Consulting, Insurance, Sales, Technology, Sport and Construction. An example of the amazing women shortlisted this year are; **Rhia Docherty, Wrestler; Katie Kelleher, Apprentice Crane Operator, Laing O'Rourke; Sarah Kouch, CDS Trader, Société Générale and Victoria Percival-Weil, Marine Engineering Officer, Royal Navy.**

**Vanessa Valley, founder of WeAreTheCity, said** "Once again the response to the Rising Star awards has been amazing, both in terms of the amount of nominations received and the calibre of entries. We know there is an amazing amount of female talent across the UK and it gives us such pleasure to be able to shine a light on these women's achievements through our awards. I am looking forward to celebrating our 200 strong shortlist before heading in to the final round of judging to identify our top 100 winners."

New for this year, the awards will also celebrate outstanding organisations in the Company of the Year category. The award recognises the achievements of a company who can clearly demonstrate that they are actively supporting their female talent pipeline through their initiatives, training, development programmes, internal employee relations and diversity network groups.

The awards will continue to celebrate Rising Star Champions, recognising the efforts of senior leaders, both male and female who are actively supporting the female pipeline.

The 2017 awards are sponsored by The Times & The Sunday Times and supported by leading organisations including 3M, Aon, Barclays, Bloomberg, Cancer Research UK, Citi, Edit Development, EY, GDS, Kier, LinkedIn, Lloyd's,

Morgan Stanley, Northern Trust, Oliver Wyman, PedalSure, Reed Smith, Royal Navy, Societe Generale, Streets Consulting and Worldpay.

**Chris Duncan, Managing Director, Times Newspaper Ltd** said “We are delighted to support WeAreTheCity as the headline sponsor for their Rising Star Awards in 2017. Building and supporting a strong pipeline of female talent is a key area of focus at The Times and The Sunday Times. We are excited to be a part of this unique awards programme that shines the spotlight on the achievements of women across so many different industries. We are honoured to be involved and look forward to working alongside so many other organisations who are as passionate about gender equality as we are.”

All shortlisted individuals, judges and sponsors will be invited to celebrate the achievements of the shortlist at an event sponsored by Bloomberg on 8 June. The 200 women will now face the final judging period and the public vote. The overall top 100 winners will be announced on 19 June 2017.

The winners will then be celebrated on 12 July 2017 at a prestigious evening reception and awards ceremony at News UK in London alongside our judges and sponsors.

Recognising that careers for women may follow different timescales, the Top 100 Rising Star Awards do not have any age restrictions included within the criteria guidelines. WeAreTheCity feels it has a responsibility to ensure that female talent, regardless of age and background, receives the necessary support and skills to transition into key decision-making roles within our organisations.

The public are encouraged to cast their vote of support for a shortlisted nominee via [risingstars.wearethecity.com](http://risingstars.wearethecity.com)

For the full list of shortlisted winners, [click here](#)

**-ENDS-**

**Editor's notes:**

**For press tickets to the shortlist event and a full list of the shortlist, please email [chantelle@wearethecity.com](mailto:chantelle@wearethecity.com)**

[WeAreTheCity.com](http://WeAreTheCity.com) is a female development organisation that helps companies to attract, return and develop their female talent pool. WeAreTheCity provides resources for women looking to develop themselves personally and professionally. Through the website we provide gender-related news, a networks directory, calendar of events and conferences, returnships, business schools, inspirational women profiles, HeForShe interviews, giving back and jobs.

**WeAreTheCity's aim is:**

- To encourage women to progress in their careers through proactive activities such as networking, events, further education and training
- To help corporate organisations to attract, retain and develop their female employees
- To raise awareness of the various organisations including not-for-profit organisations who support the progression of women
- To connect and encourage women to give back and share their time/skills with charities, social enterprises, school, not-for-profit organisations and to become role models for the next generation of working women.

**WeAreTheCity in numbers:**

- 8 million hits per month
- 200,000 unique visitors per month
- 72,000+ subscribed members
- 33,000+ through social media
- 7,000 top UK ranking website on Alexa
- 85+ events curated
- 250+ women's networks promoted
- 7,000+ published articles

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**For information about working with us, please visit**  
[workwithus.wearethecity.com](http://workwithus.wearethecity.com)