



South West Yorkshire
Partnership Teaching
NHS Foundation Trust

Excellence 2026

Awards to recognise and celebrate
the work of our staff and volunteers

With **all of us** in mind.



Welcome to Excellence 2026

Every day our staff help people to reach their potential and live well in their community. We innovate, collaborate and co-produce to make sure that our services are the best they can be, and that service users and carers are at the centre of everything we do. Every day our staff and volunteers achieve excellence.

Through our awards we will celebrate and recognise this excellence and the difference that individuals and teams – both clinical and non-clinical – make to the lives of local people.

In this brochure you will find descriptions of all our finalists.

***Good luck to all our nominees,
and thank you to everyone who
took the time to submit an entry.***



Programme

- Welcome
- Dinner
- Awards presentation
 - » Best quality excellence
 - » Outstanding achievement
 - » Best partner excellence
 - » Leader of the year
 - » Living our values excellence – equality and involvement
 - » Rising star
 - » Living our values – social responsibility and sustainability
 - » Unsung hero
 - » Living our values – digital innovation
 - » Best value excellence
 - » Chair and chief executive's award for team and individual
- Opportunity for additional photos



What happens if your entry is announced?

Here's a short guide to how the awards presentation will work.

There are a total of ten categories – team/service and individual – plus the chair and chief executive's awards for a team and individual. So please make sure you stay until the end of the awards as all the nominees are eligible for the chair and chief executive awards.

Team/service categories

We will announce a runner up and winner for each category. The runner up and winning teams will be invited to collect their awards and have their photos taken.

If you are in a team, it is up to you who comes to get the award and have a photo taken - it can either be the whole team or just a couple of you.

Individual categories

We will announce a runner up and a winner. The runner up and winner will individually be invited to the stage and have their photo taken.

Please be aware that all photos will be used in Trust publications, on our website and on social media.

There is also an opportunity after the formal presentations to have photos taken. Just make your way to the photo area if you would like to.

If you have any queries, please ask a member of the marketing and communications team.

Best quality excellence

Adel Beck secure CAMHS

Adel Beck CAMHS provides comprehensive mental health care to young people living in Adel Beck Secure Children's Home in Leeds, many of whom have experienced complex early-life trauma. The team treats all young people with equal respect, providing high-quality care and meaningful opportunities to support their growth and recovery. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out an unannounced inspection of Adel Beck in January 2026, where the service was given an overall rating of 'Outstanding, with no recommendations'. This success reflects years of commitment, learning, and transformation, promoting wellbeing, stability, and the best possible outcomes for every young person in their care.

"I don't know where I would be without Adel Beck. It's like a family."

Service user

Forensic inpatient service carers' involvement, 'Carers' voices matter to us'

To create a safe, inclusive and non-judgemental environment for carers in forensic services, the team developed a growing programme of carer-led events at Newton Lodge in Wakefield. Over 12 months they introduced carer representatives, established a dialogue group, and co-designed meaningful family events celebrating key occasions. This has strengthened family bonds, reduced anxiety around visiting, and improved confidence in the service. Carers now actively shape future events, creating a supportive community that enhances the overall experience for families and service users. Carers report feeling listened to, respected and reassured about their loved one's care.

"Attending the carer events changed everything for me. What once felt daunting became welcoming. I feel listened to, valued and reassured that my loved one is safe. These events have helped us rebuild our relationship and create family memories again."

Angela, carer



This award will be presented to a team who ensure equitable access, experience and outcomes for all. Teams will have demonstrated how their services are consistently safe, responsive, personalised and effective, and how they used continuous inclusive improvement to develop and deliver creative and innovative services. Judges were looking for examples of how teams have consistently addressed health inequalities across our services, ensuring we are inclusive and working to minimise the impact of deprivation.

Mental health and forensic inpatient speech and language therapy team, 'Improving access to speech and language therapy in inpatient areas'

The team has had a huge impact on inpatient communities in the prevention and management of choking, as well as effectively supporting communication needs across the footprint of the Trust. Highlights of their work include rolling out a Trustwide choking action plan, social skills programme and the use of Talking Mats in forensic services. Service users described the social skills programme as "the best group ever". People who attend the group have fed back that it's helped them to feel more confident, make better choices, improved their understanding of body language, improved their listening skills and helped equip them with the skills to make new friends.

"I feel like I now know how to make good friends."

Service user

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The West Yorkshire Paths service

West Yorkshire Paths is a specialist service for women and birthing people who are experiencing emotional distress and mental health needs from reproductive trauma. They pledge to offer a safe space for people from all backgrounds, providing a safe, trustworthy service. The team are setting a benchmark for responsive, inclusive, and trauma-informed care, removing barriers to access to provide personalised, specialist support. The team and service are continuously evolving to provide responsive care through reflection. Paths regularly receive positive feedback from service users and continuously seek to improve their offer, shaping the service with input from lived experience groups.

"Paths has navigated the complexity of providing a West Yorkshire-wide service, interfacing with multiple stakeholders, with enthusiasm and drive whilst also learning from and capturing feedback from individuals with lived experience and driving equity of access."

Jo Butterfield, programme manager (West Yorkshire mental health, learning disabilities and autism)



Outstanding achievement

This award is for someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the Trust and its work. They may have been working for the NHS for a long time or perhaps they have triumphed over adversity – either way, they have achieved something remarkable.

Cheryl Haigh

**Recovery and wellbeing advisor,
Lundwood Health Centre, Barnsley**

**Representing adult and older
people mental health services**

Cheryl has been a dedicated member of the Trust for over 30 years, consistently demonstrating the values of kindness, compassion, and respect in everything she does. She has worked for the clozapine clinic for over 15 years and has built excellent working relationships with the service's client group. She treats everyone with respect and empathy and makes time for every patient. Over the years, Cheryl has taken the time to learn patients' personal histories, achievements, and worries through genuine conversations and active listening. This commitment to understanding everyone reflects her deep compassion and respect for those in her care.



**Kind,
compassionate,
caring**

Sam Wasteneay

**Administration assistant,
integrated stroke inpatients and
early supported discharge team,
Kendray Hospital**

**Representing Barnsley physical
health and wellbeing**

Sam started working within the Trust through a T-Level placement in January 2024, working one day a week at New Street Health Centre in Barnsley whilst also studying at Barnsley College for a T-Level in Management and Administration. Since being in his post as a part time receptionist at Kendray Hospital, Sam's positive attitude and friendly, helpful demeanour has shone through to both visitors and staff alike. Sam was described as a credit to the Trust and to young people entering the work environment, displaying exemplary 'front of house' skills and a personal disposition that represents the Trust in an excellent light.



**Friendly,
welcoming,
polite**

Paula Clarke

**Principal clinical psychologist,
Calderdale CAMHS**

Representing CAMHS

Paula is the lead clinician for three teams in Calderdale CAMHS and is a respected member of the team whose views and experience are valued. Paula puts the person in the centre of her decision making and is generous in sharing her skills and experience. She is always calm which helps to encourage and ground her teams during challenging times. Paula also supports the team with decision making and exploring new ideas, using her clinical knowledge and experience to develop the service. Paula is a fantastic role model for new clinical psychologists joining the team, holds families and children in mind, and is deeply considerate of others.



**Calm,
supportive,
motivated**

Liza Kitchen

**Ward manager, Sandal ward,
Bretton Centre**

Representing forensics

Liza's leadership demonstrates compassion through unwavering support for both service users and staff, ensuring care is delivered with dignity and respect. She fosters a culture of integrity and accountability, leading by example and making decisions that prioritise safety and quality. Through her commitment to teamwork, she empowers colleagues across disciplines, creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and heard. She also drives continuous improvement, championing innovative practices and encouraging staff development to enhance service user outcomes. Liza's dedication and inspirational leadership makes her an outstanding role model and a true reflection of the Trust's values.



**Positive,
compassionate,
inclusive**

Dr Sarah Talari

Learning disability services clinical and medical lead

Representing learning disability and adult ASD and ADHD

Dr Talari came into her role as clinical/medical lead with many locum doctors working across the service. A locum doctor is a qualified doctor who temporarily covers staff shortages, often for sickness, maternity leave, or vacancies. She has worked tirelessly to build up a positive culture in the service which has encouraged potential applicants into vacant posts. The learning disability service now has all substantive doctors and no locum doctors in post, which has improved consistency and quality of care across all teams.



**Knowledgeable,
caring,
approachable**

Heather Simpson

Senior business development and contracting manager

Representing support services

Heather has played an instrumental role in the successful award and mobilisation of the secure CAMHS contract, supporting the process from the very start of the bid through to full implementation. Her professionalism, reliability, and unwavering commitment have been evident at every stage. Heather has consistently gone above and beyond, providing invaluable support and guidance to ensure the project's success. She approached this complex and high-profile task with warmth, compassion, and enthusiasm, creating an environment where everyone felt welcome and supported. Her contribution has ensured the smooth implementation of a critical service, strengthened relationships, and promoted the Trust's reputation at a national level.



**Warm,
compassionate,
dependable**

Best partner excellence

Barnsley stroke services, Stroke Association, and Creative Minds, 'Capturing the seasons photography project'

Developed in partnership by the Barnsley integrated community stroke team, Stroke Association, and Creative Minds, this project engaged stroke survivors and carers from the Life After Stroke service – a programme offering support and reablement after stroke. Participants explored photography as a therapeutic activity, aiding physical and emotional recovery. Across four seasonal sessions in Barnsley's Locke Park, they captured nature using digital cameras, later editing and selecting favourite images. The project concluded with the photographs being exhibited at The Cooper Gallery during Stroke Awareness Week. The photographs are now on display in the stroke recovery ward at Kendray Hospital, inspiring hope and encouraging belief in what's possible.

"Getting involved with this has been so rewarding. We have met new friends, learnt something new and enjoyed the fresh air and a walk. To see the photographs on the ward now is a lasting legacy."

Betty Eastwood, service user

Creative Minds, Arvon, Basement Recovery Project, Safe Welcome After Prison and Youth Justice Service, 'Writing for change – developing a creative wellbeing toolkit for recovery'

Writing for change is a partnership offering weekly trauma-informed creative writing and visual arts sessions. Sessions reached over 50 participants aged 10 – 75 with lived experience of imprisonment, addiction, mental health challenges and/or risk of offending. Participants developed expressive skills, creative coping mechanisms and peer support networks, culminating in celebration events and a personal creative wellbeing toolkit to support ongoing recovery. Participants reported improved mental health, confidence, and emotional regulation, using writing and art to replace harmful coping mechanisms, reduce boredom and manage emotions. Together, partners created psychologically safe spaces where participants experienced dignity, connection and emotional expression, challenging stigma and building confidence.

"These sessions are the best things we've been to. I liked how much freedom you have in your mind."

Participant



Presented to a service or team who can evidence excellent partnership working, this award highlights the impact of working with others. It could be that a project or initiative needed internal partnership working or that a service teamed up with external organisations or groups to achieve objectives. The judges looked for clear measurement of the impact of partnership working and the difference it made.

Learning disability services and Creative Minds, 'The learning disability fundays'

The learning disability fundays have been running for over 18 years, and bring people with learning disabilities together several times a year to enjoy free physical exercise and games. Fundays are a collaboration between Trust learning disability staff, Creative Minds and Creative Minds partners who provide facilities, accessible information and activities to promote good physical and mental health. They include a variety of sports, dance and movement, fete games, and singing to suit a wide range of needs. Events are fully booked within days, with up to 130 people attending. In 2025, 100% of attendees said they enjoyed the events and would return.

"We try to find sports which are accessible and affordable. It's very challenging in our area and we haven't found anything like the fundays you run. It is a nice open area, good atmosphere and participants get lots of encouragement from staff."

Danielle Macorison, Bespoke Day Services

The Barnsley health inclusion team

Homeless individuals often suffer from untreated wounds due to limited access to sanitary facilities, poor nutrition, and harsh living conditions. As many do not seek planned healthcare, untreated wounds can rapidly worsen, leading to emergency medical interventions. Recognising these challenges, the team worked with local organisations to provide a clinic offering specialised, accessible care tailored to the unique needs of rough sleepers. The clinic operates weekly at Barnsley Recovery Steps premises, coinciding with the 'breakfast club' that provides food and support to the homeless community. This service exemplifies how collaboration between healthcare providers, support organisations and local authorities can create meaningful health interventions for vulnerable people.

"I laid on the bed, listening to the rain, thinking about how lucky I am that I've got all these services looking after me."

Carl Hall, service user



Leader of the year

This is for anybody who has excellent leadership skills; they do not need to be in a formal management role. This award recognises the importance of 'leading from every seat' in the Trust, inspiring others and taking people with them.

Laura Washington

Perinatal advanced clinical practitioner, perinatal mental health team

Representing adult and older people mental health services

Laura has recently become the manager of the senior practitioners covering Barnsley and Wakefield within the perinatal mental health team, and has taken on this new role with enthusiasm and passion. She believes in putting service users first, and encourages her team to ensure they are offering a quality service to the people they support. Laura is supportive, both professionally and personally, and is always there for her team. She has completed a wealth of extra training, including her nurse prescribing and advanced clinical practitioner master's degree, meaning she has expansive knowledge of perinatal mental health which she is eager to share and use.



**Supportive,
enthusiastic,
knowledgeable**

Sarah Armer

Trustwide professional lead for dietetics

Representing Barnsley physical health and wellbeing

Sarah was successfully appointed to the Trustwide professional lead for dietetics post just over a year ago, and in this time has had a tremendous impact on the delivery of dietetics. Her inherent kindness lends itself to leading with honesty, openness and empathy, always being a role model for putting the patient at the heart of everything. Sarah is always seeking to improve dietetic services and has supported the development of new pathways, policies and procedures. She has been integral in supporting mental health patients who require artificial nutrition, allowing these patients to be cared for in the place that best meets their mental health needs.



**Transformational,
empathetic,
collaborative**

Chloe Sennitt

Wakefield CAMHS service manager

Representing children and families

Over the past year, Chloe has demonstrated outstanding leadership during a particularly challenging and transitional period for the team. She temporarily stepped down from her role as service manager to take on responsibilities of the team manager at a time when the service was experiencing significant change and uncertainty. Throughout this period, Chloe remained calm, approachable, and compassionate. She consistently supported the team, ensuring staff felt heard, valued and supported. Chloe also kept a focus on maintaining high standards of care and ensuring that service users continued to receive consistent and effective support. Her commitment ensured that the quality of the service did not diminish.



**Compassionate,
resilient,
dependable**

Dr Joanne Parry

**Consultant forensic psychiatrist
and medical clinical lead,
Cheswold Park Hospital**

Representing forensics

Jo came to work for the Trust in March 2025, bringing energy, enthusiasm, kindness and compassion to any situation she is in. She excels in her role as psychiatrist and has a brilliant rapport with all her patients, families and team. Jo has played a pivotal role in driving forward admissions to Cheswold Park Hospital, supporting people at all levels through the change. She demonstrates fantastic visible leadership, and her energy and enthusiasm has attracted medics to move from locum (temporary cover) to substantive posts. Nominator Emma Robinson said: "I cannot imagine Cheswold Park without Jo at the heart of it."



**Infectious,
compassionate,
exceptional**

Nik Vlissides

**Consultant clinical psychologist,
Barnsley**

Representing learning disability and adult ASD and ADHD

Nik is a valued and widely respected member of staff, recognised for his consistently supportive, inclusive, and people-centred leadership style. As a conscientious and thoughtful leader, Nik not only embodies the Trust's values but actively champions them, promoting a positive and compassionate way of working in everything he does. Nik demonstrates a strong commitment to developing others, particularly through his support of trainee psychologists who regularly give positive feedback. Alongside leadership, Nik is an outstanding psychologist. His person-centred, unbiased approach creates an environment where everyone feels welcomed, respected, and supported, resulting in a consistently professional and compassionate service.



**Visionary,
empathetic,
collaborative**

Imran Ahmed

Head of procurement

Representing support services

As head of procurement, Imran's strategic leadership has streamlined processes, delivering significant cost savings and improved operational efficiency across the Trust. He leads with integrity, championing transparency and ethical practice, consistently exemplifying the Trust's core values. This has created a strong culture of trust within his team and built positive, collaborative relationships across departments. His inclusive and supportive leadership style empowers colleagues, encourages innovation, and promotes shared ownership of success. Through his vision, professionalism, and commitment to developing others, Imran demonstrates the qualities of an outstanding leader and truly reflects the values the Trust seeks to uphold.



**Strategic,
collaborative,
supportive**

Living our values excellence – equality and involvement

Carers support, equality and involvement team, 'Carers' therapeutic fund – small grants, big impact'

The carers' therapeutic fund supports unpaid carers, especially young carers and minority communities, through small grants that reduce inequality and improve wellbeing. Recent projects include a young carers' pathway event impacting thousands, and work with Masoom Care in Huddersfield delivering culturally sensitive therapeutic sessions. Over 250 carers have been supported through 22 projects, reducing isolation, building resilience, and strengthening community trust. Engagement has also risen among those previously excluded due to stigma or cultural barriers. With low-cost, high-impact activities, it delivers exceptional value for money and lasting positive outcomes, with one young carer saying: "This is the first time I've felt like my voice matters."

"This fund proves that when we listen, include and empower carers, even the smallest investment can transform lives and strengthen communities."

Gillian Cowell, carers project manager

Children's occupational therapy team, 'Bite sized sensory workshops'

Sensory education is a key part of children's occupational therapy support for families of children with sensory processing difficulties. In early 2025, a new offer was developed for parents who wanted face to face and practical sensory education. Six face to face small group parent workshops were piloted in family hubs, each with a different sensory focus. Parents highlighted the value of personal interaction, the opportunity to ask questions, and the warm, welcoming atmosphere. Many appreciated meeting other parents and feeling less alone. Comments included: "It felt personal and relevant" and "Just the right amount of information", and all said they would recommend the sessions.

"The team embraced the coproduction approach and valued this new way of working closely with parents. The resulting bite-sized workshops are inclusive and accessible, allowing more families to get the sensory education they need to help their child."

Clair Greenland, children's therapy (occupational therapy and physiotherapy) manager



This award is for any service or team who can demonstrate excellence in supporting equality and diversity, and in involving people who use our services, carers or staff. Teams will have shown how they established relationships, supported or involved people from different backgrounds and how co-production, engagement and involvement contributed to improved outcomes. The judges were looking for entries that had clear aims and objectives and could demonstrate how they achieved excellent, measurable outcomes.

The Cheswold Park Hospital leadership team

Since services at Cheswold Park Hospital transferred to the Trust in 2024, the leadership team have worked with compassion, visibility, and consistency, ensuring staff felt supported through a significant period of change. The impact of their leadership is clearly reflected in the notable improvements in quality and governance, including a reduction in external oversight as confidence in the service has grown. They consistently place patients, staff wellbeing, and quality at the centre of everything they do. Their hard work, resilience, and collective leadership have transitioned Cheswold Park Hospital in a short space of time and provides a powerful example of what strong Trust leadership looks like.

“The leadership commitment goes beyond expectations and shows how being visible, collaborative and living our values reaps positive steps forward. Patients have a home where they can receive good care.”

Adele Fox, chief operating officer

The Kirklees individual placement and support (IPS) team

Individual placement and support (IPS) helps people with mental health conditions gain and sustain paid, competitive employment. Integrated within mental health teams, IPS provides personalised, strength-based support focused on individuals' job preferences, rapid job search, and ongoing in-work support for both employees and employers. Clear aims were set to reduce barriers, engage under-represented groups, and ensure people using the service, carers and staff were actively involved in shaping support. Strong relationships were built through culturally sensitive, flexible engagement and by valuing lived experience. As a result, engagement increased, outcomes were more sustainable and feedback showed people felt respected, included and empowered.

“Struggling with unemployment and juggling poor mental health, I was pretty lost. I had no idea what I was to do with my life. For the first time, I felt listened to, respected and included. This support helped me build confidence and move forward.”

Client



Rising star

Recognising anyone who is on the up in their career, whether new into the Trust or in an evolving role. This is for someone who has a bright future in front of them; they can inspire change and are making a real difference.

Monalisa Joseph

**Community psychiatric nurse,
Wakefield core team west**

**Representing adult and older
people mental health services**

Monalisa has recently progressed into a band 6 role, having worked in the service initially in a band 5 position. Since moving into the band 6 role, Monalisa has adapted and flourished. Her confidence has grown, she has taken on additional responsibilities, and despite the increased challenges and pressures she has faced, she has never lost sight of the service users, families and carers she has needed to support. Monalisa always goes above and beyond to meet people's needs with a smile on her face, and the progress she has made in the space of 18 months is paving the way for a bright future ahead.



**Humble,
committed,
caring**

Mel Roberts-Richardson

**Children's therapy assistant,
Kendray Hospital**

**Representing Barnsley physical
health and wellbeing**

Mel joined her team in January 2023, undertaking an apprenticeship as a therapy assistant. As part of this role, she successfully completed a two-year Level 3 Senior Healthcare Support NVQ with Barnsley College. Mel has since become an essential and highly valued member of the team. She has taken the lead with digital innovation, supporting the management of the team's equipment needs. This has allowed for a change of process which has provided families with a more efficient service. Mel continues to strive to develop her knowledge, her 'can do' attitude is infectious, and she has had a hugely positive impact on the team's energy.



**Dedicated,
resourceful,
proactive**

Megan Barnard

**Cognitive behavioural therapist,
Calderdale CAMHS**

Representing children and families

Megan has embraced the change in how cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is delivered within CAMHS. Megan has been self-motivated to find out more about adoptions to CBT for children with neurodiversity and has supported the team with modifying their approaches. Megan has worked with some complex children and systems and has successfully supported engagement with services. She is a highly motivated and valued member of the team who has brought new ideas into the service. Megan is always optimistic and has hope for all young people she works with. She strives to be outstanding, is an asset to the team, and a brilliant role model for others.



**Energised,
innovative,
supportive**

Michael Davies

**Assistant psychologist,
forensic CAMHS**

Representing forensics

Michael joined forensic CAMHS in August 2025 and has been described as an amazing addition to the team. With his calm, quietly confident personality, he has helped to contribute to a positive atmosphere. All team members speak fondly about Michael and often share their feedback about him being funny, kind and a well-respected team member who they enjoy working alongside. His passion for helping others and supporting young people shines through daily. Mike is eager to learn, brings a thoughtfulness to his work, and is willing to get involved in support of all his colleagues.



**Eloquent,
funny,
warm**

Aimee McEntee-Smith

**Learning disability dietitian,
Barnsley community learning
disability team**

Representing learning disability and adult ASD and ADHD

Since joining the team in September 2025, Aimee has shown resilience and unwavering care for her service users. She has helped several service users who have struggled with significant weight loss either because of mental health or other conditions. Aimee has tirelessly sought the correct support and most appropriate service for her patients, going the extra mile. This included accompanying a service user with severe anxiety and fear of hospitals to a hospital appointment so that they were able to receive the appropriate tests. Aimee is respectful of her colleagues, professional in her interactions, and growing in her abilities and confidence as a learning disabilities dietitian.



**Resilient,
dedicated,
caring**

Pawel Kusmierski

**Quality and data protection
officer**

Representing support services

Pawel ensures that corporate and clinical policies are aligned to enable safe care, treatment and governance across Cheswold Park Hospital. His focus is always on demonstrating our Trust's values, and he makes sure systems and processes are in place to keep patient and staff records safe. Pawel has shown real commitment to the Trust in his support to the information governance and IT teams during systems changes, working hard to align policy and practice. As well as being extremely knowledgeable about information governance, Pawel is a joy to work with, always coming to work with a smile and contagious enthusiasm every day.



**Committed,
enthusiastic,
knowledgeable**

Living our values excellence – social responsibility and sustainability

Dr Alex Burns, Royal College of Psychiatrists sustainability scholar, 'Walking group for recovery, wellbeing, and sustainable health'

After being appointed as a 2026 Royal College of Psychiatrists sustainability scholar, Dr Alex Burns led an initiative to introduce a weekly walking group for inpatients at Kendray Hospital. This project aims to connect service users with the natural environment, promote gentle physical activity, and support improved mental wellbeing. The initiative directly reflects the Trust's social responsibility and sustainability strategy, which emphasises the importance of promoting health, engaging communities, and maximising environmental and social benefits. By encouraging nature-based activity during inpatient care, the project supports recovery while fostering habits patients can sustain after discharge.

"The walking initiative brings together recovery, wellbeing, and sustainability in a powerful way. It helps patients reconnect with nature, boosts mental health, and reflects the Trust's commitment to socially responsible, inclusive, and forward-thinking care."

Gill Stansfield, director of services, Barnsley physical health and wellbeing care group

Fleet management team, 'Driving change: The road to zero fleet initiative'

Over the past five years, the fleet management team has spearheaded a transformative initiative to drastically reduce CO₂ emissions across the Trust's fleet. They recognised this would be a big challenge, with only 7% of the Trust's lease cars being low emission in 2020. However, the team actively encouraged staff to choose low-emission vehicles by providing clear, tailored information on greener options whenever a vehicle quote was requested. As a result, the proportion of low-emission vehicles in the fleet rose from just 7% in 2020 to 60% today. This has reduced the fleet's total CO₂ emissions by over 400 metric tonnes per year.

"The fleet management team has shown outstanding leadership in turning national policy into real action. Their work has more than halved fleet emissions in just five years, setting a powerful example of how staff engagement can deliver lasting impact."

Christine Brereton, interim chief people officer



This award will be presented to a service or team who can demonstrate that they are committed to the principles of excellence in the field of social responsibility and sustainability. Nominations came from teams who have worked with partners and as part of the wider healthcare system to create sustainable outcomes and positive opportunities for everyone. This award recognises projects which deliver socially responsible outcomes, have a positive civic and cultural impact, or improve the natural climate for service users, staff and the wider community.

Procurement team, 'From waste to worth: Delivering sustainability and savings'

The procurement team has shown strong leadership in social responsibility and sustainability by reducing waste and maximising the reuse of resources across the Trust. Unused items such as medical equipment, stationery, and uniforms are repurposed and redistributed as an alternative to purchasing new stock, reducing unnecessary procurement while supporting colleagues' needs. Items unsuitable for internal reuse are auctioned rather than sent to landfill. This initiative has significantly reduced waste, minimised environmental impact, lowered disposal costs, and saved the Trust thousands of pounds. It demonstrates a practical, cost-effective approach to resource management while reinforcing the Trust's commitment to sustainability and social responsibility.

"The initiative has delivered measurable environmental and financial outcomes. Overall, the work has reduced environmental impact, improved resource efficiency, and delivered tangible financial benefits."

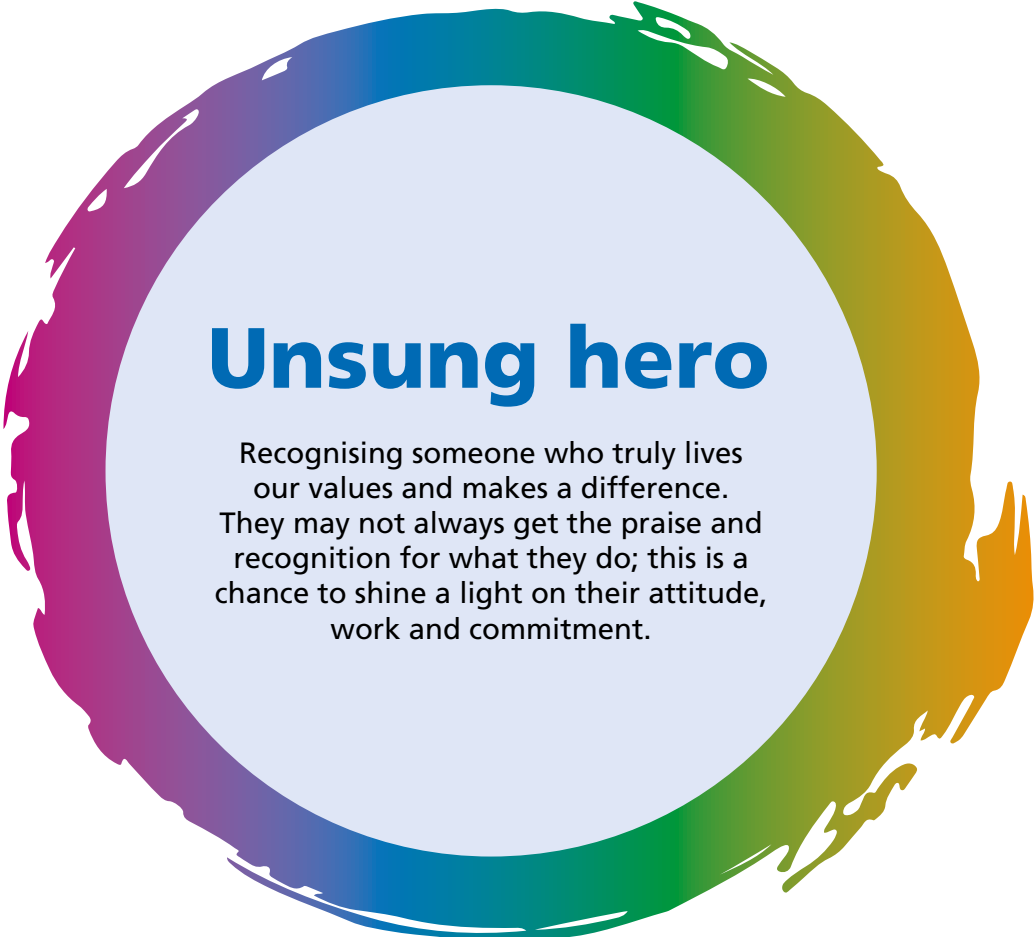
Adrian Snarr, director of finance and resources

Trustwide facilities team, 'Quality improvement (QI) - inpatient food waste project'

To address the major sustainability challenge of food waste, this project recorded the number of food portions served and unserved and food waste weight across a 10-month data period. This was then analysed to generate improvements. Hospital food waste is segregated, collected by a waste disposal company and turned into a valuable resource of green energy. The team have switched from historical ordering of bulk portions, and service users are now engaged in ordering their own individual meals. The project decreased food waste from 2.515 tonnes in May 2024 to 1.325 tonnes by August 2025, representing a 47% reduction.

"The project had a significant impact on the reduction of food waste and enabled improvements in the quality of food. This is highly important as good nutrition and hydration impact positively on clinical outcomes and optimises physical and mental health."

Alison Thomas, assistant director of nursing, quality and professions and professional lead for physical health - learning disabilities and mental health



Unsung hero

Recognising someone who truly lives our values and makes a difference. They may not always get the praise and recognition for what they do; this is a chance to shine a light on their attitude, work and commitment.

Kulthum Aswat

Support to recovery worker, North Kirklees early intervention in psychosis

Representing adult and older people mental health services

Kulthum is incredibly hardworking and conscientious, always being one of the first in the team to offer her support to colleagues. She is thoughtful, reflective, and compassionate, striving to be person-centred in all areas of her work. Kulthum uses creativity and innovation to overcome barriers and challenges to offer gold standard care and support. She is continually seeking to learn and gain knowledge to improve her practice, using curiosity and seeking advice when appropriate. Kulthum is kind, hard-working and respectful, and always works above and beyond to support service users and the team which is instrumental in contributing to positive outcomes.



**Outstanding,
humble,
resourceful**

Charlie Bray

Assistant buyer, Barnsley integrated community equipment service

Representing Barnsley physical health and wellbeing

For the past eight years, Charlie has been an exceptional and dedicated member of the Barnsley integrated community equipment service. She has recently moved to the role of band 3 assistant buyer, and over the last two years her contribution to the Trust's work has been transformative. Faced with challenging financial pressures and significant overspend, her work has not only improved the quality and suitability of equipment but has also delivered substantial financial benefits. Thanks to Charlie's meticulous approach and determination, the service is now on track to reduce spending by an impressive £330k this year – its second consecutive year of major savings.



**Dedicated,
reliable,
tenacious**

Robert Brown

Domestic assistant, Folly Hall Mills, Huddersfield

Representing children and families

In Robert's own words, he wants to make a difference to other people's lives and help others every single day. He credits reading inspirational quotes and applying them to his life for helping him through his own difficult time. Several months ago, while carrying out his cleaning duties, Robert began writing motivational quotes on the whiteboards in the training rooms used by service users. This simple act has had a remarkable impact – service users now look forward to reading these quotes each day. Robert believes that if one small action can save someone's life, as it once did for him, then it is worth doing.



**Inspirational,
thoughtful,
motivational**

Jerrie Akindojutimi

**Health care support worker,
Hepworth ward, Newton Lodge**

Representing forensics

Jerrie consistently demonstrates exceptional dedication, compassion, and professionalism – often quietly, without seeking recognition. His impact is felt through the steady, reliable, and deeply human way he supports colleagues, patients, and the wider service every single day. Jerrie takes time to understand the needs of patients and colleagues, offering reassurance, a listening ear, or practical help. His kindness creates a ripple effect, lifting morale and fostering a culture where people feel valued. Jerrie has a calm, respectful manner which helps de-escalate tense situations and maintain dignity for all involved. His dependable, approachable, and collaborative nature makes him the person everyone turns to.



**Caring,
hardworking,
team player**

Lisa Hambleton

Specialist physiotherapist, Kirklees adult learning disability health team

Representing learning disability and adult ASD and ADHD

Lisa is a valued member of her team and is well liked by service users, families, carers and colleagues. She is a knowledgeable, skilled physiotherapist and a wonderful mentor to students and other staff members. Lisa uses creative and imaginative ways to engage service users in assessments and treatment plans to make sure she gets the best outcomes. She also makes sure she takes time to listen to families and carers, who often give positive feedback for Lisa and the work she has completed. Lisa quietly and competently gets on with her job, making a significant difference every single day.



**Kind,
compassionate,
knowledgeable**

Scott Martin

Facilities operative, Kendray Hospital, Barnsley

Representing support services

Scott joined the NHS through the Project SEARCH programme, a pioneering initiative that supports young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities into meaningful employment through tailored workplace experience. Scott initially completed a placement within the portering team, where he demonstrated a strong work ethic, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. His commitment and positive approach led to him successfully securing paid employment within the portering service – a fantastic achievement and testament to his efforts. Scott then discovered a particular passion for outdoor work and has since secured employment in a gardening role within estates. He is a credit to the organisation and an inspiration to others.



**Positive,
polite,
enthusiastic**

Living our values excellence – digital innovation

Barnsley neighbourhood teams, 'The Sue Wing simulation suite'

To give staff opportunities to rehearse real scenarios, assess competencies, and build essential skills, capital funding enabled the purchase of a state-of-the-art programmable simulation doll and the conversion of two rooms into a purpose-built training facility. The doll replicates a wide range of clinical symptoms commonly encountered by patients, while the room mirrors real life environments faced by community teams. An adjoining education room supports classroom-style learning, with trainers able to observe simulations in real time via CCTV. This has created a high quality, realistic, and safe space for staff to practise, reflect, and strengthen the skills needed to deliver high quality care.

"The simulation suite has been a game changer for our training. Being able to practise real life scenarios in a safe, controlled environment has boosted staff confidence and helped them refine clinical skills."

Amanda Cosgrave, community practice teacher

Occupational health and wellbeing team, 'Integration of OPAS-G2'

OPAS-G2 is a new computer record system used across the Trust and with partner organisations to ensure timely referral for staff in need of occupational health support. The system allows staff to self-refer for counselling and gives better analytics for data in the interest of recognising immunisation needs. Staff now have greater control and transparency over their own health data, fostering trust and engagement. The ability to self-refer for counselling has enhanced access to mental health support, reducing barriers and improving timely care. Overall, the system has reduced administrative burden, improved service delivery, and received positive feedback from staff for its ease of use.

"The professional implementation of OPAS-G2 has been a great undertaking which has produced even greater fruit. The team should be proud of their resilience and adaptability to such a significant change."

James Jackson, occupational health advisor



This award is for a team or service that supports the implementation of technology and data transformation to underpin new models of care, including digital innovations in line with our values. Entries evidenced better use of data and information in decision making to improve how we deliver services and provide care in keeping with needs. Shortlisted teams have embraced new and emerging digital innovations and opportunities that drive quality service improvements and individual experiences in a safe, sustainable and efficient manner, underpinned by digital transformation and user centred design.

Systems development and performance and business intelligence teams, 'NHS App integration (Wayfinder project)'

This project focused on integrating the Trust's electronic care record system, SystemOne, with the NHS App via the Trust's patient engagement portal, Patients Know Best (PKB). The Trust was successful in securing NHS England funding to develop and enable digital integration, and remains one of a very small number of mental health and community services NHS organisations to have achieved NHS App integration. Developments have included making appointment data available for service users and carers to access within the NHS App, which improves the patient portal experience. The project demonstrates what can be achieved with effective team working and strong collaboration.

"The endeavours of all involved in this project clearly demonstrates what can be achieved through strong relationships and collaborative partnership working, overcoming and addressing challenges along the way whilst retaining focus on the goals."

Paul Foster, chief digital and technology officer

Trustwide creativity and health team, 'The Create & Bloom creative health app'

Create & Bloom is a free creative health app that helps people build a daily creative habit that supports mental and physical wellbeing. It offers 30-day guided courses commissioned from specialist arts organisations in drawing, creative writing, dance/movement and mixed arts. Create & Bloom empowers users to explore their creativity at their own pace, whether they are beginners or experienced artists. Since launch, it has had almost 1,000 signups, and evaluation has shown benefits for mood, confidence and recovery. The app has attracted national interest from policymakers and funders, supported new investment via the Baring Foundation, and positioned the Trust at the forefront of creative health innovation.

"The new Create & Bloom app is a brilliant way to weave creativity into everyday life while boosting health and wellbeing, and it's a great example of how West Yorkshire is leading the way in this field."

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire

Best value excellence

Barnsley community frailty clinic, 'Developing an efficient and supportive community-based frailty clinic'

The frailty clinic was designed to support people living with moderate to severe frailty, providing proactive, joined up care that slows deterioration, prevents crisis interventions, and reduces avoidable hospital admissions. Each patient received a two-hour appointment focused on what mattered most to them, working together to shape a personalised action plan and identify any further health or social support required. Early financial modelling suggests a strong return on investment, with an estimated £10.47 saved for every £1 invested. A second expanded phase has now been agreed, which will see the clinic delivered one week per month rotating across neighbourhoods.

"The clinic gives patients access to a range of professionals who can complete a truly comprehensive assessment, highlighting issues that might not otherwise have been identified. It helps us provide better value for money for the people of Barnsley."

Staff member

EyUp! Charity, 'The season of reyt goodwill'

The season of reyt goodwill was a winter fundraising campaign led by the Trust's charity, EyUp!, to ensure that around 600 people on the Trust's inpatient wards on Christmas Day received a gift. Previously the Trust funded gifts, however increased financial pressure required a sustainable alternative. Combining cash donations, public drop-off points, and a partnership with Dunelm's Delivering Joy scheme, the team collected donations for over 40 wards. Staff fed back that morale on wards was lifted and the gesture created a positive atmosphere on Christmas morning. The initiative removed the need for Trust expenditure, expanded community partnerships, and demonstrated a replicable, sustainable model for future years.

"Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts provided for Beechdale ward, without these some of our patients wouldn't have got a gift due to no family or friends contact. It's an amazing thing you have all done."

Anne Appleyard, management assistant



This award will be presented to a team delivering the best value they can by optimising their use of resources and reducing waste in a sustainable way. Services and teams demonstrated a clear and unrelenting focus on sustainability and minimising our environmental impact. This category recognises work that contributes to social, economic and cultural developments through social value led approaches, programmes and procurement.

Digital and technology services, procurement, and receipt and distribution, 'Delivering value through smarter IT procurement'

The procurement, receipt and distribution, and information management and technology (IM&T) teams collaborated to introduce a new streamlined process for ordering IT equipment that delivers both financial and operational benefits. Previously, individual budget holders ordered equipment independently, resulting in higher costs and longer lead times. Under the new approach, a core range of commonly ordered items are purchased in bulk and held as central stock. This enables the organisation to benefit from higher-volume discounts from suppliers and reduces administrative duplication. In 2024/25 the project achieved savings of £32,646, with a further £14,220 up to December 2025, demonstrating a sustainable, collaborative approach to cost control and service improvement.

"It's important that we provide value for money in all that we do. It is good to see teams come together to create a system which supports greater efficiency, helps to reduce costs, and is a user focused and sustainable way for us to work."

Adrian Snarr, executive director of finance and resources

Forensic sustainability group, 'Centralised stock management'

The forensic sustainability group has transformed stock management across the service by introducing a centralised stock management system, replacing 11 wards' independent ordering with one streamlined process. This new approach eliminates duplication, and significantly reduces the volume of expired or unused items. Centralisation enables smarter redistribution of surplus items, consistent availability of essential supplies, and reduces unnecessary purchasing. A more efficient stock rotation lowers the environmental footprint of procurement activity, while generating cost savings. Outcomes include measurable savings, reduced environmental impact, and enhanced social value; demonstrating that sustainable resource management strengthens both service delivery and community wellbeing.

"Our centralised stock system shows how sustainability and efficiency can work together; reducing waste, saving costs, and creating lasting social value."

Forensic sustainability group member

Thank you to...

...everyone who entered

The teams and individuals shortlisted are representing everyone who took the time and effort to nominate. Congratulations to all teams and individuals who received a nomination.

...our judges

Our judges were made up of staff from across all our services and districts – both clinical and non-clinical - representing all professions. They also included representatives from our members' council.

...our finalists

Thank you for being so accommodating when arranging filming, and a huge congratulations to all of our shortlisted nominees for their achievements.

...our Trust board

Drinks for the tables at our award ceremony were funded by our Trust board.

...all our staff

Our Excellence awards wouldn't be possible without the incredible efforts of our staff. Thank you for all that you do each and every day.





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