







CARE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS 23

Inspired









Welcome



Hello everyone,

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome you to this special awards ceremony, where we come together to celebrate the incredible achievements of individuals in the field of adult social care. This awards booklet is a treasure trove of stories that highlight the exceptional dedication and hard work of those who have made a real difference in the lives of adults who rely on our care and support.

In a world that is often filled with challenges and uncertainties, it's heart-warming to see how these remarkable individuals have gone above and beyond to provide compassionate care and support. They've not only excelled in their roles but have also touched the lives of those they care for in profound ways.

As you flick through the pages of this booklet, you'll encounter inspiring journeys and hear about the significant contributions of our award recipients. These stories are a testament to the impact that dedicated individuals can have in the world of adult social care.

Let's take a moment to extend our warmest congratulations to these deserving awardees, whose tireless efforts have earned them this moment in the spotlight today. We also want to express our gratitude to all the sponsors, supporters, and everyone who has made this event possible.

These awards are not just about celebrating achievements; they're a source of motivation, a reminder that compassion and dedication can lead to greatness in adult social care. So, let's celebrate these wonderful individuals and look forward to a future where even more hearts are touched and lives are improved through caring and dedicated adult social care.

Thank you for joining us in honouring these remarkable professionals - have a great evening.

Jon Wilson - Director of Adults and Communities Kate Galoppi - Director of Adult Social Care & Commissioning

Who are Inspired to Care?

Inspired to Care is a ground-breaking initiative that has been making significant strides in addressing the recruitment and retention challenges within the adult social care sector in Leicester and Leicestershire. Committed to improving the quality of care for vulnerable adults, this programme is a collaborative effort between local authorities, healthcare providers, adult social care organisations and educational institutions. Its primary aim is to inspire, support, and empower individuals to pursue careers in adult social care while simultaneously boosting the retention rates of existing staff.

At its core, Inspired to Care recognises the critical need for a skilled and compassionate workforce to meet the growing demands of an ageing population. The initiative undertakes various strategies to achieve its objectives:

- Education and Training: The program collaborates with local colleges and training providers to offer high-quality training courses and apprenticeships, ensuring that individuals entering the sector are well-prepared for their roles.
- Awareness Campaigns: Inspired to Care conducts awareness campaigns to inform the community about the diverse and rewarding career opportunities in adult social care. This helps attract a more diverse pool of talent.
- Mentorship and Support: The initiative provides mentorship and ongoing support to new recruits and existing staff, recognising that transitioning into adult social care can be challenging.
- **Recognition and Rewards**: To improve retention, Inspired to Care promotes the importance of recognising and rewarding the hard work and dedication of care workers. This can boost staff morale and job satisfaction.
- **Partnerships**: By fostering partnerships with local employers and healthcare organisations, the program creates a cohesive approach to workforce development.

The impact of Inspired to Care has been impressive, with an increase in the number of individuals considering and pursuing careers in adult social care. Moreover, the retention rates among existing care workers have improved, leading to more stable and reliable care services for vulnerable adults in Leicester and Leicestershire. This initiative serves as a beacon of hope in the ongoing effort to address the staffing crisis within the adult social care sector, ultimately benefiting the well-being of the region's growing population that draw on care and support services.





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www.inspiredtocare.co.uk/thepathwaytocare

The course covers a range of subjects including:



Intro to Adult Social Care

- Personal Care
- **Continence** Care
- End of Life Care

FlorenceAcademy

Meet our Judges

Meet our distinguished panel of judges for the Care Professional of the Year Awards. Each member brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the field of caregiving, ensuring a thorough and fair evaluation of nominees. From seasoned social care and health care professionals to compassionate advocates and users of services, our judges share a common commitment to recognising excellence in care. Their collective knowledge and dedication make them invaluable contributors to the prestigious process of identifying and celebrating outstanding individuals who go above and beyond in making a positive impact in the lives of those they serve.



Harj Nanuwa BSc(HONS) CEO

Value Added Business Solutions LTD

"My career in Adult Social Care spans over 25 years, where I have had senior management experience to Director level in the running of a number of Multicategory Residential Care Homes, which have included Dementia. My experience has involved me in all matters in the Daily Management, Strategy and Operations of Care Homes, such as Safeguarding, Quality, Contracts, HR, Finance/Accounts, IT, Policies etc...

In my current role as Chairman of EMCARE, I represent our Membership in Local, Regional and National conversations and meetings. I am also currently part of a number of Boards where I feed into, represent the views of our Members and feedback to Members.

As part of my work within Social Care, I was very pleased to be selected as a judge for such a prestigious activity and be part of a diverse and highly skilled panel. The judging was not easy for me, as there were numerous superb nominations with very impressive and heart warming stories from very caring individuals. My perspective for shortlisting was based on "Above & Beyond", where the nominations showed out of the box thinking that had a huge impact on the people involved, which were evidenced by specific examples. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who took the time to enter the Awards and thank the Inspired To Care Team for the opportunity".



Kirsty Whatmore ICS Retention Lead NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB)

"My name is Kirsty Whatmore and I work for the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) NHS Integrated Care Board. I've worked for the NHS for 15 years, previously in Human Resources roles and currently as the Retention Lead. In this role I am involved in projects across health and social care designed to improve the experiences of staff and encourage them to stay working in the sector.

I feel very fortunate that this role has given me the opportunity to work closely with the Inspired to Care team and was honoured to be chosen to be a judge for the Care Professional of the Year Awards 2023. Reading the nominations was a humbling and emotional experience; every nomination was a story about the extraordinary people who chose to work in care and the difference they make in people's lives. There were examples of inspiring career journeys, innovative practice, professional dedication, dogged perseverance, championing and advocating for others and endless care and love for people who need it. I'm very grateful to have been given the opportunity to be a small part of celebrating the achievements of all the nominees, runners-up and winners, they are all amazing!"



Penny Lawlor Social Care Workforce Manager Kent County Council

"I really enjoy my workforce role within the care sector, and having worked my way up from a community care worker, many years ago, my experiences have helped me support our care workforce today. I feel passionate that our care workers are provided with the right training to enable them to provide great care and that we also recognise our workforce for their skills and commitment to the people they support by offering opportunities for them to progress their career. We have great care workers and we don't want to lose them!!"



Karla Brown Director of Operations Dignus Healthcare Limited

"I have worked in the Health and Social Care Sector for over thirty years, initially training as an allied health professional, working in critical care services in the NHS. For the past twenty years I have worked in Social Care in a variety of operational roles supporting people living with a learning disability, mental health disorders, autistic people and forensic/complex needs. I feel it an honour and a privilege to nurture and enhance the lives of our people on a daily basis. For me, our people are the people we support and the people we work with on a daily basis.

It was a very humbling experience being part of the judging panel for the Inspired to Care Awards and I felt a true sense of pride and admiration for every nomination I read. Congratulations to all the award winners and the nominees and thank you to all the colleagues who took the time to nominate amazing members of our workforce."

Richard Canavan U.K. Director BA Healthcare

Richard is a director and one of the owners of BA Healthcare an ethical international recruitment business serving the health and social care sector for almost 25 years. "Judging the Inspired to Care awards is a genuine privilege and an opportunity to not only connect with the sector and see the dedication of so many people and providers but also to see just how many people go above and beyond in their work and the difference it makes to the people they work with, not just once or twice but every single day".





Adam Purnell Group Quality and Compliance Manager Bayswood Care Group

"I had the privilege of supporting and judging the Inspired to Care Awards because I wholeheartedly believe that the remarkable individuals in the care sector deserve more recognition for their relentless dedication. I was genuinely moved by the unwavering compassion and dedication of all the nominees. Their selfless commitment to enhancing the lives of those they support and work with is nothing short of extraordinary".

"The Inspired to Care Awards serves as a platform to honour and celebrate these devoted professionals, and it was a true honour to be part of acknowledging the work of those in social care. I know that this recognition not only pays tribute to their invaluable contributions but also inspires the workforce of the future, highlighting the incredible impact they make on society".

Nicola Payne Nurse Consultant Enono

"Having started my career in health & social care working as a domiciliary care worker and a carer in a care home I have always held the sector close to my heart, I consider myself as a champion for the sector and do my best to promote the wonderful work taking place. Being a judge at this year's award demonstrated again the passion and enthusiasm of a dedicated workforce. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading all the fabulous entries".



Donna Jones Durham County Council

"The awards are important to me, as I think it is essential to recognise the hard work taking place in social care. I've worked in various roles in children and adult social care over more years than I care to count but the strongest influencing factor in helping judge these awards was because I'm a carer for my 16-year-old disabled son and my 88 year young, nana. People often don't get the recognition they deserve and this was my way on contributing to this recognition. Congratulations to all the nominations and winners."





Andy Lawrence Chair

Leicestershire Homecare Alliance

"Having owned a homecare provider and worked in the NHS and councils, I was delighted to help judge these awards. I now chair the Leicestershire Homecare Alliance, and I get to help many homecare companies in LLR, to work in partnership with commissioners and deliver sustainable, highquality care for our communities."

Malany Kalicharan Workforce Planning and Development Manager UHL Chair of Midlands AHP Ethnic Minority

Network University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) "I am Malany Kalicharan, a radiographer by background but currently working as Workforce Planning and Development Manager at UHL. It was an absolute privilege to be part of The Care Professional of the year award judging panel. The nominations were truly inspiring and we had a tough decision choosing a winner. It's heartwarming to read stories on how dedicated our care workforce is by going above and beyond to provide optimal care to patients and the population across Leicestershire. Well done to the worthy winners and runner ups".





Ellie Freeman Extra Care Scheme Manager PA Housing

"I am an Extra Care Scheme Manager for two schemes – one for older people and one for adults of all ages with additional needs. I see every day the impact that care has on people's quality of life, and how life changing good care can be. The care sector tends to be undervalued in our society, and I think it is important to recognise the efforts and achievements of those who work tirelessly to care for the most vulnerable people. Reading the nominations you could feel the love and respect that the nominees have inspired in so many people and it is great to have an opportunity to share and celebrate these stories".

Victoria Tomlinson Senior Commissioning Manager Policy Information and Commissioning (Age Well) Lancashire County Council

"As a commissioner of Adult Social Care, it was a great opportunity to judge the nominees for the Care Professional of the Year award. The nominations for this award were really strong and it was a positive challenge for the panel to shortlist the winner and runners up. Being a judge on the panel was a really positive experience to see the passion and positivity within the care market across Leicestershire".





Sona Bharkhada Director & Care Manager Radfield Home Care

"I wanted to become a part of the judging panel for the awards because as an ambassador for Inspired to Care, I am aware of the initiatives and huge benefits they bring to raise the profile of social care within the local community. After reading all the nominations for this year's awards, it has made me feel so proud to be a part of this sector and to see the big difference our nominees have made to the lives of others through their acts of kindness, commitment and compassion. It was tough to choose the finalists as all the nominees deserved recognition about the positive contributions and outstanding work they have done to help others".

"Wellys Work Place is an innovative person-centred day service for adults with learning disabilities. The Wellys Workers in our Monday newsletter and craft groups, including Ash, Abbie, and Heather, helped to judge this year's Inspired to Care awards. As people who have experience of drawing on care and support, they are best placed to decide what excellent support looks like!"



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Support Professional of The Year

Sponsored by Aspirations Care

This award honours the support professional's significant contribution to maintaining a high quality standard for those receiving support outside of our other categories. The judges looked for evidence of dedication, awareness of co-workers, and career development through training.

James Alexander John Punch Willow Court

James is incredibly caring and supportive of service users, investing his time in getting to know everything about them, and doing what he can to build a rapport and positive relationship, but also supports them using an array of skills and techniques. James spends hundreds of hours (of his time) contacting celebrities, planning holidays and activities, adapting tasks, and supporting independence. He contacted, arranged, and took an autistic gentleman to Sesame Street USA, planned and took someone to Disneyland, and got videos and gifts from musicians, Emmerdale, Gladiators, plus much more. He makes autistic peoples' dreams come true, improving quality of life, creating opportunities, and building positive relationships. This is his life, and he continues to find amazing ways to help people achieve their dreams.

Charlie Roberts Mosaic 1898

Charlie has developed a positive relationship with a lady whom we support who has complex and unstable Epilepsy and is known to be quite challenging. It has been a friendship we wouldn't have predicted but Charlie has become a key worker for this young lady, who can often be misunderstood - and they get on well. Charlie was recently able to identify that the young lady he was working with was showing early signs of rapid health deterioration, including changes in behaviour and presentation. Charlie spoke with his supervisor and the concerns were quickly escalated to the person's family and supported living scheme for monitoring. Charlie is a quiet and sensitive soul, often misunderstood himself. However, Charlie has settled into our team and is an asset to our charity and the people he works with.

Rebecca Thompson Langdale Care Homes

Becky's commitment and determination is second to none. I could say she is just doing her job, but what makes the difference is the way she does it. Becky was supportive and worked tirelessly with me to ensure we got our policies, procedures, staff training and staff team on board and supported me in developing an open culture and a positive workplace, this has ensured Groby Lodge improvement processes and procedures were embedded from the start in line with our values, and for the wellbeing of our residents, staff and improved staff retention. Becky's passionate, enthusiastic and fair attitude makes her an inspirational leader, and she leads by example, developing and supporting others to gain confidence, and skills. Becky has grown in confidence, and this shows daily in her work as she seeks to deliver excellent care, she makes suggestions for continuous improvement.

Care Home Professional of The Year

Sponsored by Wood Street Optical

This award is to recognise the hard work and dedication of a care professional working within a residential setting. For this category, the finalists demonstrated their work with the people they support alongside their work and support of colleagues as well.

Helen Baston Langdale Care Homes

Helen puts extortionate levels of effort to ensure that levels of care improve significantly. She has revolutionized and inspired the team at Langdale Care Homes to do great in their quest to always give high levels of care to the beloved residents entrusted to them. She is very enthusiastic about imparting practices to other professionals at Langdale. She is always there to support and guide other colleagues in order to provide the best quality care possible.

Juliet O'Connor Devonshire Court

Juliet transformed the home from 'inadequate' to 'outstanding' which she has maintained since 2018. Juliet and her team have several innovative activities to help clients with Dementia, such as they have created a bike for clients meaning they can still stay active and safe. In 2022, Juliet received a British Citizen Corporate Award in recognition of her leadership during the pandemic.

Jodie Robertson The Old School House

Jodie mentors new staff through their induction period and delivers some house training. Jodie is dedicated and her residents are put at the heart of what she does. She has a very person-centred approach and sees everyone as a unique individual and equal and she never fails to remain professional during any stressful or upsetting time, while also maintaining an emotional approach to her residents when supporting them. She maintains a very fine balance between professional and emotional, which makes her a vital asset to the team.

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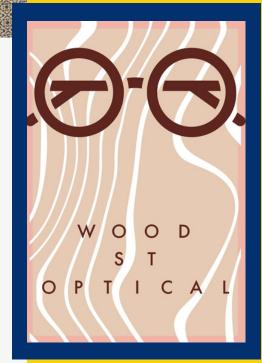
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Home Care Professional of The Year

Sponsored by Care Choices

This award recognises the hard work and dedication of a care professional working within a domiciliary care setting. For this category the finalists have demonstrated going above and beyond for those they support in their role and can evidence the exceptional care they consistently deliver.

Laura Jones Radfield Home Care

Laura has infectious enthusiasm that everyone she works with loves. She is bubbly and cheery with every service user she sees. Due to her profound abilities to lift people's spirits she is able to make the most out of every single visit she does. She uses her own initiative to create weekly plans for her clients, to do different activities with them. She also connects with her clients on a personal level, by helping them not only physically but emotionally as well. For example, offering support to let a client see her late husband.

Angela Setersfield Help at Home

Angela goes out of her way to buy gifts for her clients, that don't have family, at Christmas and Mother's Day. She takes new carers under her wing, once she has trained them, she keeps in touch making sure they are ok. Angela has a big heart and is a very valued member of the team at help at home.

Paula Worth Radfield Home Care

Paula helped a client that was struggling mentally, Paula spent her own money to adapt to the client while they were in this low mood, so they were still hydrated and eating. Within a few weeks, Paula had the client back to their normal self. Another client that Paula attends to, was advised to go to A&E, Paula, without hesitation, stayed with their next of kin for the 4 hours they were there and expected no additional pay for the extra call time. She is a very generous, kind, and humble person.

Supported Living Professional of The Year

Sponsored by Vita Health Group

This award is to recognise the hard work and dedication of an individual working in a supported living setting. The finalists have demonstrated how they go above and beyond every day in their role, using their initiative and consistently delivering high quality support.

Michael Baines Affinity Trust

Michael has been helping a gentleman whom he has known and supported for years. This support was offered at the person's hospital bedside as he was refusing to eat, drink or take his medication and his life was becoming at risk. Michael once informed, collected himself together and took himself to the hospital where he stayed for several hours, and with his encouragement he managed to get the person to take fluids and have a small snack. This was due to the relationship he has with him and as he has with so many others. Michael has worked hard to gain his position and is well respected by his staff, families and professionals. He is fully aware of the daily issues we all face and have to deal with. He is very realistic and fights our corner where he can keep us all safe and sane.

Stephanie Collins Enable Inclusive Support

Stephanie has been a beacon of excellence in our organisation. Her tireless efforts impact on the lives of the individuals under her care have left an indelible mark. One of Stephanie's most remarkable qualities is her innate ability to connect with and understand the unique needs of the individuals she supports. She approaches her role with empathy, patience, and an unwavering belief in each person's potential. Stephanie has consistently demonstrated her commitment to enhancing their quality of life by going above and beyond in providing personalised care, advocating for their rights, and fostering an environment of inclusion and respect. Stephanie's influence extends beyond the individuals she supports. She serves as an exemplary role model for her entire staff team. Her leadership style is characterised by a collaborative and supportive approach, inspiring her colleagues to reach their full potential.

Grace Cropper Aspirations Care

Grace has worked extremely hard over the past 3 years to move people from residential homes and living at home with families into supported living to give people that next step towards independence. She has worked well with professionals and been applauded by professionals for supporting people to move into supported living services safely and person centered. Grace always takes time to get to know her people she supports within her registration and invites them regularly to her people we support forums. They do great things like learn about healthy foods, and they sample new foods. One of Grace's people we support has gained paid employment as an Expert By Experience and has been travelling around the country to deliver to hospitals barriers to accessing healthcare for people with Autism, which is an amazing outcome.

Learning Disabilities Professional of The Year Sponsored by Vita Health Group

The finalists for this award have demonstrated their ability to support those living with additional needs at an exceptional level. All finalists have shown their willingness to learn and adapt their support to those in their care and how in their role they are enabling those they support to live full filled and enriched lives in their local communities.

Steve Barber Personal Assistant

Steve has shown astonishing levels of effort to build a close relationship with his individual. Steve went above and beyond to learn how to ski to teach his individual how to do so as they had always shown interest in learning how to ski. The nominator described Steve as having her son grinning like a Cheshire cat with his humour, kindness whilst teaching him how to ski. He has helped her son break all the stereotypes that come with learning disabilities and helped him thrive as an individual.

Michaela Dearden Personal Assistant

Michaela has always put in the extra effort to enhance her individual's life, day to day she completes the daily tasks and exceeds the expectations of her individual and their mum. The nominator described Michaela as always striving to do that bit extra for her individual, such as attending speech therapy sessions with them and incorporating this in their daily life to develop their language and communication skills. She has formed a wonderful relationship with them and in the nominator's words, she gives them a voice to be heard.

Amanda Phelps Forever Savvy

Amanda gained her passion for care when her son finished college and she wanted to give him something that he could do that had a purpose. Over the last twelve years, Amanda has created four successful centres that help people with learning disabilities do something purposeful and help them develop their interests. As an example, she has the project "Horse Savvy", where clients can work with animals and look after them. This gives them the chance to build skills that they may not of had the opportunity to do elsewhere.

Mental Health Professional of The Year

Sponsored by Vita Health Group

This award recognises the work of an individual supporting those struggling with their mental health. The finalists for this award have demonstrated how they have dedicated themselves so improving the mental health and wellbeing of those they support in their roles. From support at home to accessing their local communities by providing true person-centred care, for these individuals, going above and beyond is part of their everyday role.

Kelly Elliott Rushcliffe Care

Kelly has worked within the field of mental health for over 10 years. She is a mental health nurse as well as the manager of the Hall. Kelly advocates wholeheartedly for her service users living with chronic and enduring mental health needs. She has developed her service, so service users have access to highly skilled support staff and therapies to attain the optimal level of functioning and positive outcomes. Kelly is always looking for ways to improve her services, making sure to give the best quality support to her service users.

Laura McGurk Creative Support

Laura is a senior support worker across the Leicester community team, where she supports ten staff members. Laura is extremely passionate, knowledgeable about the people she supports. Laura is only part-time, yet shows a full-time commitment to her job, always responding no matter if it comes up in or out of her working hours. She is an excellent practitioner who strives to develop and lead her team in the same way she approaches care and support.

Nicola Reed

Langdale Care Homes

Nicola's outstanding leadership, dedication and unwavering commitment to uplift our residents make her invaluable to the team. She possesses a deep understanding of mental health issues, and she has proved to be qualified and knowledgeable in everything she does to promote the mental well-being of our residents. She is an excellent communicator between other healthcare professionals and staff members. Ensuring that our residents are heard and well looked after, she has implemented many programs at Oakdale that have been very beneficial to helping our residents' mood and keeping their spirits up.



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Care Leader Sponsored by Care Choices

This award is to recognise the leadership of an individual managing an adult social care setting. The finalists will have demonstrated their ability to show compassion and care to not just those they support but their team as well. These individuals will lead from the front and by example, living and breathing the values of their setting, as well as inspiring the team around them.

Jessica Bilson Meadow Barn View

Jessica lives and breathes Meadow Barn View (MBV) and its values and has done since she co-created the business 7 years ago. She has always been an inspiration and role model to all our staff and workmates (service users) due to her incredible work ethic, dedication and striving for excellence in all areas. Despite her day-to-day managerial responsibilities, along with co-ordinating our ambitious coffee shop project, Jessica is still very much "in touch" and knows every workmate individually. She is always available for our workmates, their parents/carers and equally for staff. She is effortlessly approachable, taking the time to listen and be there for everyone whether they are sharing good news or bad or simply needing a listening ear. Jessica remains incredibly humble treating all staff with respect, kindness and generosity.

Beth Hart Home Instead

Beth joined our office as a manager during the pandemic, which was a very difficult period. Not only did Beth get stuck in right away, she did so with admirable positivity. Beth has so much compassion for both our clients, their families, our Care Professionals AND her colleagues. She has gone above and beyond many times. One example is when staff levels were so low due to COVID - she cheerily stepped in and worked an entire weekend covering sickness alongside her office work, Beth put herself at risk before others during the pandemic. Beth managed to onboard a record number of clients while managing her team, which enabled our company to grow during COVID months. Beth is the epitome of a brilliant employee, manager, colleague, carer, confidant, mentor and friend.

Amaan Sadiq Langdale Care Homes

Amaan has demonstrated unparalleled leadership and a genuine commitment to improving the lives of our residents. One of Amaan's most remarkable initiatives is the "Golden Hour" program. He recognises the importance of spending quality time with residents and has created a culture where managers prioritise one-on-one interaction with them. Simply, our managers spend an hour with each resident, talking to them, and making sure that all their needs are met. This program has enabled residents to forge deeper connections with staff members and has significantly improved their quality of life. He continuously strives to improve our services and is always seeking out innovative solutions to enhance the care we provide. His unwavering focus on quality assurance and regulatory compliance has significantly reduced the number of incidents. It has helped create a safer and more secure environment for our residents at Langdale Care Homes.

Valentina Sinkova Radfield Home Care

Valentina is an exceptional care giver who has consistently proven to go above and beyond her role to deliver quality care to all service users. She joined the business as a care professional having had previous experience in the sector. She persisted with her hunger to gain knowledge and continued to complete training sessions including training the trainer. During her first training session, she was very nervous and when I confronted her about it, she admitted she it was because English was not her first language. She was unsure about how her accent would be construed. However, as soon as she overcame her nerves, she delivered a fantastic training session. Her words were: "I realised that people are kind and want me to succeed. Anyone could hear my accent, but respected the fact that English is my second language, so they wanted to support me." Fast forward 14 months down the line and Valentina is now a senior care professional.

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Outstanding Contribution of The Year

Sponsored by Blue Light Card

This award is to recognise someone who has made an extraordinary impact to social care. This could be within their setting, local community or a further reach. Whether it be length of service, or otherwise, the finalists will have evidenced their contributions to social care and the positive impact they have had.

Lesley Mansfield The Old School House

Lesley worked at The Old School House for a total of 30 years in December 2023. Lesley gives her commitment, love, and care to the house 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. She's not a normal 9-5 manager, she works day and night ensuring that the residents have the best lives possible. Sadly, one of the residents had passed away, and people at the home were unable to attend. Lesley worked alongside the funeral director to have the funeral at the home, so all this person's friends and family could say their final goodbyes together. Lesley has always supported everyone at the home, She's the most selfless and kind person the nominator has ever met.

Elena Martin Langdale Care Homes

Elena has consistently demonstrated dedication, professionalism, and commitment to improving the lives of those she serves. Her extensive tenure in the field of social care is exemplary, speaking volumes about her resilience and steadfastness. She has a profound ability to effect positive change, which merits her for this nomination. She has championed her vulnerable resident's inclusion, empowerment, and access to essential resources.

Prity Somani

Cherrytree Residential Care Home

The nominator had been visiting Prity's Care Home for many years. The nominator was particularly impressed with how well she managed the home, especially during COVID when times proved to be very challenging. She baked over 400 delicious cakes for charity for the local pharmacy to donate to Red Nose Day. She helps colleges and schools as well, as the nominators children came home with presents from Cherrytree via school over Christmas. She is very involved in the community and trying to get her residents to integrate with the community as well.

Best Newcomer of The Year

Sponsored by Enable Inclusive Support

This award is to recognise someone new to the social care sector, that has taken their role with both hands, got stuck straight in and made a huge difference already. The finalists will have shown the difference their roles has made to them and those around them, what they have achieved so far in their new positions, as well a desire and ambition to continue with their careers in social care.

Alex Cooke Midlands Care

Midlands Cares' vote wholeheartedly goes to Alex for the Best Newcomer award, and it's not just a vote; it's a testament to the remarkable impact she has had on their workplace and the entire marketing landscape. Since her arrival, their office has become a brighter, more vibrant, and all-around exciting place to work. Alex's infectious enthusiasm and fresh perspective have injected new life into our team, sparking creativity and a sense of camaraderie that's truly invigorating.

Immaculate Pereira Apple House Residential Home

Immaculate contacted Apple House to do a work placement as part of her health and social care college course. During the placement she showed a keen interest and was more than happy to expand her skill set and knowledge. She really proved herself to the people at Apple House, and she was offered a part time job around her college hours. She is hardworking, dedicated, and always has a positive attitude. Immaculate has been signed off by district nurses for administering insulin. Something she was afraid of and has now overcome. We are so proud of her at Apple House.

Darren Webb

Meadow Barn View

Darren set up and continuously develops and manages a thriving enterprise providing opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities and autism to learn and develop gardening skills alongside life skills. He helps these individuals learn important social skills that will help them in the world outside the gardening club. This gardening club has also helped Darren develop as a person; his spirits are lifted. After having a tough start, not being very motivated, Darren now arrives happy and proud of himself and his work.

Trainer of The Year

Sponsored by Aspirations Care

This award is to recognise the hard work and dedication of a trainer within adult social care, who goes above and beyond in the training they deliver and how they deliver it. The finalists will have demonstrated their passion for offering and delivering full and comprehensive training opportunities in order to upskill their teams and equip them with all the tools and knowledge needed to be able to deliver high quality care consistently.

Colette Lucas Aim High Training

Colette has demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise as a trainer, making a positive impact on both Enable and our community partners. She has been specialising in delivering bespoke training for social care. Her commitment to excellence is evident, she gets Constant excellent feedback from our staff. She offers her training services to our community partners free of charge. She is an exceptional trainer that delivers outstanding contributions.

Alan Sheasby Rushcliffe Care

Alan trains staff in a humorous, diligent, and down to earth fashion. His training is clear and enjoyable to all, he promotes inclusivity to those who have difficulty with English language or other learning needs by taking a patient and kind approach and using a variety of different learning methods. He is always on time and carries out each session as promised, nothing is too much trouble for Alan. He has a real passion and love for the job he does. The nominator says he should be very proud of himself.

Cristina Pop Langdale Care Homes

Cristina has been a crucial team member and brought innumerable improvements for our staff. The nominator can confidently declare that our staff members have acquired vital information and skills because of her diligent efforts, allowing them to provide the best care possible at Langdale care Homes. She is a natural leader with exceptional communication skills. Everyone has benefited from her abilities as a mentor. Her years in the healthcare sector have given her a thorough understanding of what is needed from her as a trainer and what she needs to rain the staff in to help them provide the best care possible.

Office Staff Member of The Year

Sponsored by Wood Street Optical

In adult social care, all teams are supported by a dedicated and comprehensive office team. This award is designed to recognise one of those individuals. Whether it be co-ordinators, deputies, supervisors, team leaders and everything in between, the finalsists will work within care offices and have a proven record for their dedication to their roles, teams and people their setting supports. They will go above and beyond in their office settings in everything they do and for those they do it for.

Meeta Gohil Home Instead

Meeta is the heart of the company's positive culture. Meeta has a kind, supportive, and compassionate approach and makes time for every team member. She makes you feel valued and important. She treats everyone with respect and makes time for anyone that needs it. She is very eager to support people. Her dedication shines through her willingness to work, by doing extra hours, covering care calls and helping others out of hours.

Edward Goudie Rushcliffe Care

Edward has worked with The Rushcliffe Care Group for over seven years now, for the last five years he's been a part of our small IT department, providing support to our IT manager. The knowledge Edward has of different IT systems and programs is an invaluable asset. He helps us deliver on our commitments to our service users by helping us streamline all our systems and programs.

Petra Horobin Shepshed Carers

Petra is the beating heart of Shepshed Carers Limited with her pragmatic attitude and dynamic energy beating through the business. Petra set the precedent of what it meant to follow the business mission to be part of the family and do good for the family. During COVID-19, Petra was the driving force at supporting our Care Professionals during such a hard time. She made sure communication was open to everyone and helped the business tackle the most difficult situations during this time. She's a true asset to Shepshed Carers Limited and is greatly appreciated.



Sponsored Categories:

Support Staff Member of the Year Working together & Co-Production Champion



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Support Staff Member of The Year

Sponsored by BM Estates

In residential and supported living settings, alongside office staff and Care Professionals are a hard working team of auxiliary staff. From gardeners to maintenance professionals, these hard working members of the team provide essential support to make sure the staff and residents have safe and pleasant surroundings to call home and work. This award will recognise the work of one these individuals, their hard work, commitment, dedication and positive impact in the team they work within.

Kirsty Dilkes

Cherrytree Residential Care Home

Kirsty is always going above and beyond to make sure that our residents are happy and comfortable, her dedication to her work is truly inspiring. She has a contagious laughter and positive energy; Kirsty is a pleasure to work with. Kirsty is incredibly hard-working. Always willing to go out of her way to help residents and staff. Kirsty is known to be creative and to do fun, new activities for the residents and always finding new ways to improve their quality of care and life.

Gemma Brown

Apple House Residential Home

Gemma provides excellent person-centered care and support. Gemma is bubbly, happy and spreads positivity in the home. She spends a lot of time getting to know the residents and building a personal connection with them. This allows Gemma to be able to care for the residents in the best way possible as she knows the best ways to care for each individual.

Aareem Khan

Langdale Care Homes

Aareem puts in tireless amounts of effort to streamline processes, give administrative support, and provide guidance to the staff at Langdale Care Homes. He has substantially impacted the success of the organization. He takes on plenty of additional duties in the office to meet our company's needs, such as if holiday and sickness needs updating and needs covering, he's straight on it as well as completing his own daily and weekly tasks. He's a true asset to the team.

Local Company Supporting Adult Social Care Sponsored by East Midlands Chambers

This award is to recognise the work of a business or charity with a proven track record of supporting adult social care in their communities. The finalists have been able to demonstrate the positive impact and commitment they have made to the sector as well as being able to talk about why adult social care is important to them and their local community.

Annemarie Marlow Cherrytree Residential Care home

Annemarie demonstrates dedication towards bringing joy to the elderly residents through her beautiful singing, which is truly commendable. She is a regular attendee to all parties, functions and events held at the home, and her presence is highly anticipated. She treats everyone with equal respect and kindness. She brings much-needed comfort and happiness to the residents, especially during these challenging times.

Dr Baljeet Singh Carers Direct Homecare

Dr Singh has set up two new initiatives for the social care community. The day centre offers meaningful activities for people receiving their services and forges a sense of community amongst the people who attend. They have had a positive impact on the people who attend, helping them feel less isolated and more integrated in society.



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Ambassador of The Year

Sponsored by Blue Light Card

This award will recognise the hard work and dedication of one of the Inspired to Care Ambassadors. The finalists have gone above and beyond in their work for the Inspired to Care Ambassador Programme and be a passionate advocate for adult social care.

Kathy Hillcoat Home Instead West Leicestershire and Market Bosworth

Kathy's constant dedication, commitment, and advocacy for the organisation have made a profound impact on both clients and colleagues. She promotes the values of Home Instead and embodies their mission. Kathy's role as an ambassador extends far beyond her caregiving responsibilities, she actively takes on the responsibility to be the face and voice of the Beaumont Leys Home Instead Community. She has a real ability to connect with clients and colleagues on a personal level which makes her the perfect ambassador at Home Instead.

Shilpa Jobanputra Home Instead West Leicestershire and Market Bosworth

Shilpa was a newcomer to care in 2019, but she is a natural. She pours her heart and soul into every visit she has. Shilpa is constantly thinking about her clients, and how she can better their lives and make them laugh and have a good time. An example of this was when Shilpa built an irreplaceable bond with a client whose wife had just moved into a care home. After the client had low spirits, feeling like he had lost his main purpose, Shilpa found creative ways to lift his spirits back up such as taking him out on drives in her convertible car with the roof down. Towards his last days, Shilpa was his voice and fought for his wishes to be respected.

Shan Val Apple House Residential Home

Everyone at Apple House, residents and staff, recognise Shan's hard-work and dedication she has shown building together Apple House. She has dedicated her life to raising her own family and Apple House, despite being very young herself. Shan and her husband have battled to overcome, finding structure for all these residents from renovations to support plans and care plans. Shan has always involved staff, residents and their families in her decision making. Everyone under Shan's and her husband's care is happy and is very grateful for their hard work to make Apple House the perfect place for their residents and staff.

HR/Recruiter of The Year Sponsored by Enable Inclusive Support

This award recognises the efforts of an individual in the recruitment and procurement of new staff for their setting. The finalists have shown ingenuity, adaptivity and creativity with their recruitment methods, as well as being a dedicated team members, demonstrating the values that we look for in social care to potential new candidates.

Natalie Boarer

Natalie is extremely passionate about high-quality care being provided to all who need care. Natalie came into her care career during the pandemic and began building strong bonds with her clients, a lot of whom had been extremely reluctant to have help, but Natalie managed to win them over. Her methodical and organisational skills enabled us to become responsive to applicants and ensure complete compliance. She implemented the use of value-based interview questions.

Subhrajit Das Langdale Care Homes

Langdale Care Homes are blessed to have Subhrajit Das in charge of Operations and recruitment. Das is a well-rounded and highly efficient individual whose services can be equated to what can be done by almost six professionals. He works tirelessly to ensure that a lot is in place. He has experience in recruiting the best talent for us and ensures that all data/information is readily available remotely for our staff and residents. He has made the HR/ Payroll departments efficient and environmentally friendly, which has significantly reduced paper usage. Subhrajit Das thoroughly understands the specific qualifications and competencies required for various roles within our care homes. He efficiently screens and interviews candidates, ensuring that only the most suitable individuals are selected. He has continued to give our company the best in terms of staff and has resulted in high staff retention.

Felix Williams Choices4Life

Felix joined our team in the winter of 2021. We were struggling hugely with recruitment and retention and due to the Covid-19 pandemic had suffered great losses in our client and staff team. Felix came from HR in the NHS so moving to a small care team working for people with learning disabilities was a huge change for him. We were also on the cusp of changing from paper to digital records. Felix has brought a youthful and dynamic attitude towards this change and has assisted both managers, staff and service users with their adaptation to digital care. He has implemented new and innovative solutions to staff recruitment and retention and has implemented many Well-being initiatives reinforcing. Felix's methodical and reliable processes have increased retention and decreased sickness absence over the time he has been at Choices for Life which has increased morale. Felix's HR knowledge is excellent and despite working long hours to deliver the changes we needed, he also found the time to study for and gain his level 5 diploma and CIPD status. Felix is now applying for a Level 7 CIPD course and at only 25 years old is a real inspiration to other young staff.

Innovator of The Year

Sponsored by BA Healthcare

This award will recognise an adult social care setting that has show innovative approaches to their business, demonstrated by how it has benefited their team, communities, and those they support. It can be an innovation in any area of the business that has had a positive impact.

Amaan Sadiq Langdale Care Homes

Amaan has an unmatched capacity for original thought and finding new solutions. He has a devoted commitment to creating original, practical solutions to the most challenging issues for our residents, it is admirable. Amman leverages technology to improve the quality and efficiency of care provision, also creating a new online brand presence for our homes. His ability to think outside the box, advocate for inclusivity, and leverage technology really sets him apart from other people and makes him an asset to our team.

Sorina Tanasa Langdale Care Homes

Sorina has exceptional capabilities in innovation and passion for enhancing the lives of our residents, this has resulted in significant improvements in care delivery. She is a role model; she proactively creates excellent solutions that benefit everyone. She has created a culture of ongoing learning and development which has resulted in better health outcomes for our residents and helped the professional growth of our staff. She is constantly finding new ways to improve Langdale care homes, helping everyone, and everything develop, to improve the quality of care and support we provide for our residents and fellow staff members.









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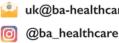
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Lifetime Achievement

Sponsored by East Midlands Chambers

This is a very special award for an individual that has dedicated a substantial part of their working life to adult social care, making a positive impact to those they have worked with and supported over the years as well going above and beyond in their work. The finalists have all demonstrated their passion for adult social care across a lengthy career.

Lesley Mansfield The Old School House

Lesley has devoted her time to The Old School House. Spending copious amounts of time trying to get to know each individual at the home. Having been at the Old School House for so long, protecting, loving, and doing what's best for the residents, she has become a mum-like figure to some. Lesley also encourages staff every day to learn and grow in their job roles to ensure residents are cared for at the highest standard. She does everything and anything for the residents and her team at The Old School House.

Baljit Panesar Langdale Care Homes

Baljit started off as Health and Safety Compliance Manager, after doing an exemplary job he was then promoted to operations support manager for the Langdale group and led in the head office. Baljit has created a positive and collaborative work culture, fostering a sense of unity and purpose among the staff. His strong leadership skills and ability to motivate and inspire the team have improved staff morale, productivity, and overall job satisfaction. Baljit has 26 years of service, dedication, passion, and effort under his belt. The nominator says there is no one more deserving.

James Alexander John Punch Willow Court

James is the true embodiment of a caring, compassionate, hardworking, committed, and positive human being and social care professional. He is an inspiration to the people that know him, his dedication to delivering top quality care inspires the nominator. The nominator says he works through every working moment to ensure service users get the best care possible and that staff get the best training and support.

Diversity Champion

Sponsored by BA Healthcare

This award recognises a setting that can demonstrate how they actively promote and champion diversity among those they support and their care teams as well. The finalists have evidenced how important diversity is to them as well as having a clear understanding of the benefits to their teams and those they support as well.

Vincy Mathew Cherrytree Residential Care Home

Vincy puts tireless amounts of effort into ensuring that equality is embedded throughout the care home. They have a strong commitment to fairness and equality which has made them an exceptional role model and mentor to many. The nominator said Vincy is always willing to lend a hand and is always quick to offer her support to anyone in need.

Oakdale Care Home

Oakdale has a manager that fully understands the concept of diversity and is constantly installing this into the care home. Oakdale have a comprehensive policy that outlines why diversity and inclusivity are so important and why we should install this in our day-to-day lives and work, ensuring that all staff follow this and are dedicated into this being a main mission of the care home. The care home creates opportunities for meaningful interactions so residents and staff can learn about each other's backgrounds and experiences.

Dr Baljeet Singh Carers Direct Homecare

Dr Singh has built the company over the last decade to now employ over 100 people. Carers Direct specialize in supporting service users that from Indian and Asian backgrounds and are well known for staff that can speak Punjabi, Gujarati, and Hindi. The company looks for values and behaviours when employing staff, knowing that their staff will always go the extra mile for someone, and this cannot be trained. Carers Direct values diversity and attracts staff from parts of the community that others may struggle to connect with.

Dignity Champion

Sponsored by Blue Light Card

This award recognises the commitment of an individual within adult social care to bring dignity to those they support. The finalists have evidenced instances where they have gone above and beyond to provide dignity for those they support as well providing a high quality of care at the same time.

Kerry Hanzouli Home Instead West Leicestershire & Market Bosworth

Kerry has a natural and calm manner when providing care for people at the end of their lives. Kerry has developed a sound balance between supporting the family and allowing them space during such a sensitive time. Kerry is a natural in her work and is a very diligent person.

Sherly Joseph Langdale Care Homes

Sherly has formed extraordinary bonds with her residents, she brightens the mood of her residents whenever they have a rough day, and she never fails to put a smile on her face. She demonstrates compassion and sensitivity with her residents. She never fails to treat them as her equal and friend instead of a client.

Miriam Makunike Home Instead West Leicestershire & Market Bosworth

Miriam possesses some of the most crucial traits for a care professional, reliability, and dependability. She ensures that all clients receive constant care and support. All clients are happy to work with her, indicating her effectiveness and in providing care with dignity. She works with sensitivity and a caring nature for her end-of-life patients, showing them nothing but respect and equality.



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Working Together and Co-Production Sponsored by BM Estates

The significance of co-production in service design is recognised with this award. For this award, the judges were interested to hear from experts with real-world experience who have gone above and beyond to make sure that services are made to improve quality and outcomes, as well as care professionals who use partnership working to make sure that people who use services have a voice.

The Aspire Team

The team have undertaken the careful and delicate work of building a bond with the client (that had struggled with professionals in the past) that would enable him to rehabilitate into a home. The team slowly integrated themselves into the client's daily routine and focused on gaining his trust to make this process a lot easier for the client. They helped the client achieve beyond his baseline at discharge and make exceptional progress in recovery.

James Alexander John Punch Willow Court

James always goes above and beyond what is expected of him, he is selfless, caring, and supportive. He truly makes a difference to the lives of the people he works with. He invests his time in getting to know everything about them. James is always calm and collective when dealing with any circumstance that comes his way. Ensuring that he gets the most out of his job every day.

Zoe Saffron Wellys Work Place

Zoe's carer has progressed from residential care homes and supported living to team leader roles in the local authority. As a leader, Zoe can motivate and inspire people into action. This helped her Café that she set up in 2018 in Melton Country Park. This café that Zoe set up is run by people with learning disabilities, giving them an amazing opportunity to be helped to integrate with the public while also being supported by other people, helping them create a community between the employees and the regular customers.

Julie Sings

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