



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Cygnet Health Care service initiative nominated for National Service User Award

A music initiative led by two service users at Cygnet Hospital Woking has been announced as a finalist in the National Service User Awards 2022 for its work in using music as a tool for recovery.

David and Levi, two service users at Cygnet Hospital Woking, a mental health hospital run by Cygnet Health Care on Redding Way, have been nominated in the "Recovery and the Arts" category after they wrote and recorded their own song, 'Dreaming', as part of Cygnet Health Care's Music2Empower initiative.

The pair join four other nominees from Cygnet Health Care services at the National Service User Awards, which are designed to celebrate service user led initiatives in mental health, learning disability and autism services across the country.

Service users involved in the shortlisted projects are invited to a black tie gala awards ceremony on 14 September, where the winners will be announced.

David and Levi bonded over a shared love of music and their passion for it has supported their friendship and collaborations on different songs whilst being in services.

Their music project certainly impressed the team at Cygnet Hospital Woking. Dr Richard Church, Medical Director, said: "What I have observed develop is a type of collaboration you might not otherwise see, they are working together with a shared goal, creating something new.

"Music plays a fundamental part of most people's lives as it can shape identity, culture, heritage and spiritual beliefs. Many of us listen to music for relaxation and leisure and it can affect people deeply.

"Harnessing the power of music can also help people across mental health care settings, where it is used to promote improvements in people's social relations and connectedness, as well as building confidence and self-esteem. All of us at Cygnet Health Care congratulate David and Levi on what they have achieved and wish them the best of luck at the awards. This recognition is thoroughly deserved."

Music 2 Empower is an initiative Cygnet Health Care originally launched in October 2019 and aims to harness the positive effects of music across the services.

Raf Hamaizia, Group Expert by Experience Lead at Cygnet Health Care, added: "David sparked a flame within us as an organisation to want to replicate the empowerment and recovery-oriented support he received during his successful request in wanting to do a music video whilst being in services. This has since turned into a national initiative we are proud of and has even led to the development of a number of recording studios and music rooms within our services as well as other professional music videos.

“Our message is that just because people are being supported in our services it does not mean they cannot chase their dreams and we will try our best in to support people in doing so.”

The awards are also celebrating their 10th year and winners will be announced on Wednesday 14 September at Colwick Hall Hotel in Nottingham.

Ends

Notes to Editors

For interviews, please contact Gemma Attew, External Communications Manager, at gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk

Further information on Cygnet Hospital Woking can be found here:

<https://www.cygnethealth.co.uk/locations/cygnet-hospital-woking/>

About Cygnet Health Care

Cygnet Health Care has been providing a national network of high-quality, specialised mental health services for the NHS and local authorities for the past 30 years.

Cygnet Health Care’s pioneering services support people with complex and acute mental health needs across the UK.

As one of the best quality providers in mental health services in the country, Cygnet Health Care’s focus is always on the best outcomes for those who use or commission its services. 85% of Cygnet’s facilities are rated as good or outstanding, which is above the national average. www.cygnethealth.co.uk