



## Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

#### **Bristol Clinical Fellow Scoops Healthcare Award**

A Clinical Fellow from Bristol who supports men with acquired brain injuries spoke of his pride after winning a Learner of the Year award at a leading healthcare company's inaugural achievement awards.

This year, Cygnet Health Care launched the first ever Cygnet Staff Achievement Awards, open to all staff across Healthcare, Social Care and Support Services, to celebrate its caring, dedicated and hard-working colleagues. Cygnet Health Care supports individuals with mental health needs, learning disabilities and autism and employs nearly 11,000 staff across the UK.

Held at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, the awards recognised the individuals and teams who made outstanding contributions towards ensuring service users receive the highest standard of care. The Learner of the Year award recognised an individual who has applied their learning or research within the last year to make positive improvements at Cygnet.

Dr Ivan Leong is a Clinical Fellow at Cygnet Brunel on Crow Lane, Bristol which provides neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative rehabilitation for men with mental health difficulties and acquired brain injuries.

He was presented the award by BBC Presenter JJ Chalmers who was guest of honour at the event.

Mandy Blanchard, Head of Learning and Development at Cygnet Health Care, said: *"This is Dr Leong's first year with Cygnet and he has already had research projects at Brunel published in peer review journals and presented at international and national conferences.*

*"He is enthusiastic about Cygnet's teaching commitments and presented a case to the local Mental Health NHS Trust on Brunel's behalf.*

*"Dr Leong has a good rapport with service users and is hugely knowledgeable which has already brought benefit in just 12 months."*

Upon receiving the award, Dr Leong said: *"I am very excited to win although everyone felt like a winner who was nominated. It is amazing to be recognised for your hard work and I am thankful this event has been able to take place because it is inspiring to be in a room with my colleagues who are achieving incredible things every day."*

Colleagues were able to nominate one another and there was almost 1,000 nominations across 12 categories, all judged by different, independent panels recognising the range of skills across the Cygnet Health Care workforce – including support workers, clinicians, chefs, IT, nursing and all the other vital roles.

Dr Tony Romero, CEO of Cygnet Health Care, said: *“The most important part of any organisation is its’ people. They are the engine, the magic ingredient behind all of what makes Cygnet Health Care the special organisation that it is. The hard work, commitment and dedication that they pour into their roles every day means we are able to change lives for the better. These awards recognise the achievements and difference that our motivated, compassionate and value-driven staff make for our services users and colleagues.*

*“Through the nominations process we saw so many wonderful examples of how our staff go above and beyond and step up to work outside of their role, sacrificing their time and dedication for the benefit of the individuals in their care. Dr Leong is the embodiment of this and I congratulate him for all he has achieved. His passion helps to embed the positive culture at Cygnet Health Care and he constantly goes above and beyond, putting service users at the heart of all he does.”*

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**Notes to Editors:**

For more information, please contact Gemma Attew, External Communications Manager, on [gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk](mailto:gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk) or 07718 244811.

**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.

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