



## Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

#### **Bury woman wins award for promoting Diversity & Inclusion in healthcare**

A Bury woman who helps to support children with mental health needs spoke of her pride after winning an award at a leading healthcare company's inaugural achievement awards for the work she does to promote diversity and inclusion.

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 inaugural awards recognised the individuals and teams who made outstanding contributions towards ensuring service users receive the highest standard of care. The Respect (Inclusion and Diversity) award was for a team or individual who promotes equality, diversity and inclusion to help make Cygnet a better place for others. Judges looked for evidence of raising the profile of inclusion and enhancing care for service users and/or colleagues through a sustained and passionate commitment to inclusion. They wanted to see how nominees developed new, different or inclusive ways to ensure that groups who may be under represented have a voice.

Jayne Rowlands is Pastoral and Wellbeing Lead at the Excel & Exceed Centre at Cygnet Hospital Bury, the specialist provider of education for all young people admitted with mental health needs to the hospital.

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

Vicky McNally, Director of Partnerships and Engagement at Cygnet Health Care, said: *"Jayne is passionate about inclusivity in society and was instrumental in achieving the Rainbow Flag Award at the CAMHS school. She gives up her own time to co-host an LGBTQ+ club for staff and young people and ensures the curriculum is inclusive for all.*

*Under her leadership the school has taken many steps to be more inclusive and those who nominated her said quite simply; "Jayne inspires us all to be better each day."*

Upon receiving the award, Jayne said: *"I feel shocked, overjoyed and very grateful to those who nominated me. I feel proud to have my work recognised. Working in CAMHS you really feel like you are making a massive difference and it is a privilege to be in a position to give young people a positive experience. I try my hardest every day alongside my colleagues to make sure they leave with*

*something good, whether that be a love of education, skills for learning or some qualifications. I want to make sure everyone can be positively included in society once they are discharged."*

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. Jayne is the embodiment of this and I congratulate her for all she has achieved. Her passion helps to embed the positive culture at Cygnet Health Care and she constantly goes above and beyond, putting service users at the heart of all she 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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