



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Healthcare Workers from Cygnet Hospital Taunton Scoop Awards

Taunton workers who support adults with complex mental health needs and learning disabilities spoke of their pride after winning an award at a leading healthcare company's inaugural staff 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.

Stuart Hooper is the Active Life Lead at Cygnet Hospital Taunton which provides specialist inpatient services for older adults with mental health problems and for men diagnosed with a learning disability. The hospital also provides an acute inpatient admissions service for men over the age of 18. He won the Innovation award which recognised individuals who are a force for good in the communities they serve. Judges looked for evidence of creative partnerships with local communities that enhance the health and wellbeing of staff, service users, loved ones and the wider community.

Sally Whittle-Long and Erin Goldsworthy oversee the HR team and won Support Act of the Year, which recognised a team or individual who provides first class support behind the scenes to help frontline services run smoothly.

Both Stuart and Sally and Erin were presented with their awards by BBC Presenter JJ Chalmers who was guest of honour at the event.

Talking about Stuart at the ceremony, Lee Hammon, Chief Commercial Officer, said: *"Stu is enterprising in the way that he thinks about Cygnet as a service which has seen him make productive relationships with local businesses. The most successful being one with Taunton Football Club, which Stu initiated. Starting out as stadium sponsors, Stu has created vocational opportunities for service users at the club. They also get to enjoy match days and Cygnet use the club's facilities to hold recruitment events.*

"Stu has also trained staff across the hospital to be "Activators" so that they can organise active sessions for service users when they're on shift, particularly in the evenings and at weekends. His community links also mean that staff can take service users out to venues that are supportive and understanding."

Upon receiving the award, Stu said: *“This award is not just about one person, it is the whole team. I couldn’t do my job without them. Working with patients is the best thing about my job, they are at the centre of what we do and working to make a difference in their lives is a real privilege.”*

On Sally and Erin, Peter Smith, Managing Director of Healthcare South Region, said: *“Sally and Erin continually go above and beyond to ensure that staff are happy within the workplace and there is an open-door policy for any queries or problems staff may have.*

They are instrumental in creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all new starters. They rolled out a staff wellbeing strategy, including employee of the month and deserve special recognition for their involvement in settling new starters from the Overseas Nurses Programme.”

After winning the award, Sally said: *“This is amazing recognition and we feel truly humbled to win. The best thing about our job is the ability to put staff at the heart of what we do. As soon as staff first engage with us, we want them to know how important they are.”*

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. 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. I congratulate Stuart, Sally and Erin for all they have achieved. Their passion helps to embed the positive culture at Cygnet Health Care and they constantly go above and beyond, putting service users at the heart of all they do.”

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Notes to Editors:

For more information, please contact Gemma Attew, External Communications Manager, on 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.

www.cygnethealth.co.uk