



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Kewstoke Support Worker Scoops Swan Award for Long Service

A support worker from a hospital in Kewstoke who has supported men and women with mental health needs for more than 15 years has won a healthcare award for his long and dedicated service.

This year, Cygnet Health Care launched the first ever 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.

Ali Down is a support worker at Cygnet Hospital Kewstoke, which provides emergency admissions for men and for women diagnosed with a serious mental disorder. He won the Swan Award for an individual who has completed 10+ years of service and continues to innovate, motivate and make a positive difference every day.

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

Mark Stephens, Non Executive Director at Cygnet Health Care, said: *“Ali has been with us for 15 years and is the most inspirational support worker you would ever wish to work with. If he doesn't know the answer, it's not worth knowing!*

He is the go-to man for social trips and ward activities or if you need help. He will take on shifts at Christmas and major holidays to brighten up the place for those who can't go home. He never takes praise, is always humble but he is, without doubt, the heart of the Kewstoke team.”

Upon receiving the award, Ali said: *“I feel very honoured and very humbled. This is not what I expected at all, just to be nominated was an incredible feeling.*

“My team are amazing to work with and they make it easy to get out of bed every morning and come to work. They are the best thing about this job and it has felt humbling to be around so many inspirational people this afternoon.”

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. Ali 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 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