Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Stevenage Healthcare Workers Scoop Award For Bringing Joy To The Workplace

Two women who support men and women with acute mental health needs 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. The Care (Joy in Work) award recognised a team/individual who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to making Cygnet a great place to work. Judges were looking for evidence of initiatives that bring 'joy in work', build community spirit and inject fun into the workplace.

Mia Ali and Becca Bateman are Staff Support Coordinators at Cygnet Hospital Stevenage, on Graveley Road, which offers a range of secure and PICU and acute mental health services for men and women. They were handed their award by BBC Presenter JJ Chalmers who was guest of honour at the event.

Talking about the impact of their work, David Wilmott, Director of Nursing, said: "*Mia and Becca go above and beyond to improve staff health and wellbeing and creates a work environment that is tailored to staff needs. They champion Cygnet as a great place to work, and encourage others to do the same.*

"*With Mia and Becca, no two days are the same yet their one constant drive is to make sure staff are shown care and kindness. Everything from staff awareness and inclusion days, to ward parties and little breakfast boxes just to say thank you at the end of a tough week.*

They have helped with staff retention because they make every individual feel valued. Notably they set up a project to make sure the views of night staff could be heard and have been brilliant at making our international nurses feel welcome.

Upon receiving the award, Mia and Becca said: "*We are so happy to win this award, it means a lot to us. We love working together, we always have each other's back and it is brilliant to be recognised for the difference we make in the workplace.*

"*It is easy to bring joy to work when you feel it yourself. We are very lucky to do the job we do and it is a privilege to support others.*"

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. Mia and Becca are embodiment of this and I congratulate them 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