



Press Release

19 May 2023

For Immediate Release

Cygnet Nurses Celebrate Awards Win

Nurses from across Cygnet health and social care services were recognised for their outstanding care and compassion at the company's annual nursing awards.

The Cygnet Nursing Conference and Awards took place last week at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham where the company also launched its' two-year nursing strategy.

Categories included Nurse of the Year, Support Worker of the Year, Compassionate Leader of the Year and Diversity and Inclusion award.

Nurse of the Year winner, Cynthia Neta, is Senior Nurse at Sedgeley House, a high dependency inpatient rehabilitation service for men with complex needs. She said she was shocked at scooping the prize.

"I am very excited," she said. "This award feel like recognition for the difference I have made at the hospital."

Anna Kowalska, a senior support worker at Cygnet Beckton Hospital, was awarded Support Worker of the Year. She explained: "This feels absolutely amazing. It says the work that I do does count. I want to thank my colleagues for nominating me. I have a constant drive to do more, to do better and improve things.

"The care we give to people is so important. Our focus, as a company, is always on the individual we care for and I'm really proud to be recognised with this award."

Clinical Team Leader at Cygnet Hospital Sheffield, Junior Sibanda, won the Diversity and Inclusion award for her role in promoting the work of the multicultural network. After winning the award, she said: "I love my job as a nurse because we make sure we get our patients to a position where they can live a fulfilled life in the community. Seeing progress in someone's life is really rewarding.

“Being an ambassador for the multicultural network is about ensuring everyone is included and that we promote Cygnet values in the work we do. I feel really happy to win this award in recognition of that.”

The event was held in person for the first time since before the pandemic. Exploring the theme of Excellence in Clinical Leadership, and hosted by David Wilmott, Director of Nursing, it was a day to celebrate the best of nursing staff and care at Cygnet.

Following a welcome from Cygnet CEO, Dr Tony Romero, Mary Mumvuri, National CQC Advisor for Mental Health and Deputy Chair of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Nurse Directors Council delivered the first Key Note Speech. Dame Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS England addressed the event virtually before Karen Johnson, Senior Vice President, Universal Health Services delivered her Key Note Speech. She talked about the alignment of UHS's mission statement with Cygnet's and looked at differences between US and UK services, explaining that compassion should underpin all of the work nurses do.

Speaking after the conference, Karen explained: “It is a thrill to participate in anything which recognises our nurses and support workers and their level of commitment. They do incredibly important work for those who need our support at a time when the world makes it so difficult for many without a voice to have their voice heard.

“It is a treat to be a part of an opportunity to share, to celebrate, to learn, to network and to meet an incredible group of people.

“Nurses lead with their heart and they chose this work out of a place of kindness, respect and a deep concern for people's welfare. The highlight of the day was the recognition of so many individuals during the awards. Recognition is how people thrive and it is terrific to be able to recognise all of the talented individuals across Cygnet group.”

Cygnet's 2023-2025 Nursing Strategy was presented by David Wilmott and Agnes Tutani, Cygnet's Freedom to Speak Up Guardian. The strategy, which was co-produced, provides a framework for learning and experience to be shared across the Nursing workforce to enhance their practice and ultimately deliver the highest standards of professional nursing care.

It focuses on patient safety, clinical effectiveness and service user experience.

David explained: “Today has given us an opportunity to celebrate the unique contribution our nurses and support workers make to our patients and service users' care.

“It was exciting to launch our Nursing Strategy 2023-25 which gives us the opportunity to set the strategic direction for nursing over the next few years.

“Our patients and residents are at the heart of the strategy and we would like to ensure all of the objectives of the nursing strategy are built into our everyday practice as nursing and care professionals.”

Ends

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