



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Staffordshire Worker Nominated for Apprenticeship Award

A Business Support Administrator at a supported living services in Birmingham has been named as a finalist in the Paragon Skills Apprenticeship Awards in the Professional Learner of the Year 25+ category.

Emma Hughes, 30, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, works as a business support administrator for Cygnet Health Care and said she was “incredibly proud” to be nominated for a Paragon Skills Apprenticeship Awards which celebrates the very best of Paragon Skills’ apprentices and employer partners.

Paragon Skills is an apprenticeship provider working alongside leading health and social care company, Cygnet, to provide apprenticeship pathways for its health and social care employees. The awards were launched to celebrate the best and brightest learners and employers across the care, education and professional sectors. They are focused on providing individuals and organisations with the chance to be celebrated, recognised and rewarded for their commitment, hard work, achievements and success within training and development.

Emma is based at Cygnet’s social care service, Staffordshire Supported Living (SSL), which supports individuals living with learning disabilities, mental health needs and autism, offering personal care within their own homes across the West Midlands. She started her Business Administration apprenticeship in December 2021 and has now completed it.

Emma was nominated by her tutor who states: “Emma has shown commitment, motivation and drive throughout the apprenticeship. She has completed all aspects of the Diploma to an exceptionally high standard.

“Emma has continually strived to go above and beyond in order to develop knowledge, skills and behaviours and has grasped every opportunity to enhance her personal and professional development. I can speak extremely highly of Emma’s work ethic and quality of work she produces.”

Emma said she was delighted with the nomination. She added: “I have really enjoyed working on my Business Administration apprenticeship over the last 12 months. It has sometimes been tough juggling a busy role alongside studies however it was worth it when I received my results – a distinction!

“It is nice to be recognised for my efforts and hard work and I am very proud of this achievement!”

Cygnet Social Care Service Manager, Leanne Squire, said: “Emma works exceptionally hard in everything she does. She takes on extra work to ensure the service runs smoothly, and always goes above and beyond. I can’t think of anyone who deserve this award more than Emma. I am so proud of her. Emma – you are already a winner to us.”

Deputy Operations Director (North West and West Midlands) for Cygnet Social Care, James O'Neil added: "Emma regularly goes above and beyond in her role, in which her application, responsiveness and quality of work is duly recognised. We are so very grateful and appreciative to have Emma as a key player within the team and I am sure that Emma will continue to display her tireless work ethic, innovation and commitment to being the best."

The awards ceremony will take place on Monday 19 June.

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