



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Kent Nurse Wins Nurse Education Award

A Kent nurse who supports adults hospitalised for their mental health has scooped a national award for the work she does to support other nurses with their career prospects.

Laurie Burleton, 35, is the Clinical Services Manager at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone. She has been recognised for her outstanding care and compassion at Cygnet's annual nursing awards where she won the Nurse Education Leader award and was recognised alongside other nurses from across Cygnet health and social care services.

The Cygnet Nursing Conference and Awards took place last week at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham.

On receiving her award Laurie said: "This feels amazing. I am really passionate about our preceptorship nurses and ensuring that they have a really good start to their nursing career.

"I want to ensure they have opportunities for upskilling so that our patients receive the very best care. It's so wonderful to be recognised."

The event was hosted by David Wilmott, Cygnet's Director of Nursing, who said: "The awards provide an opportunity for staff to nominate colleagues for the exceptional work that they do. This year we had a record number of nominations and it gives me enormous pleasure to recognise those who make outstanding contributions to the care that our service users and residents receive."

Nominating Laurie, the team at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone said: "Laurie has developed and led on a number of initiatives at Maidstone which have helped to implement the Nurse Education Programme in the hospital.

"She has been pivotal in improving knowledge at Maidstone and is always able to give advice on best practice, policy and nursing interventions; enabling a learning culture and promoting nursing.

"Laurie is also hands on, helping on the wards; which in turn helps her to recommend changes and share her knowledge."

Karen Johnson, Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer, Behavioural Health at Cygnet's parent company Universal Health Services, Inc. (UHS) announced the finalists and winners of the awards, for which there were 529 nominations across nine awards categories

Congratulating Laurie on her award win, Dr Tony Romero, CEO of Cygnet, said: "Nursing is a true vocation that requires compassion, knowledge, professionalism, humility and good humour. I am incredibly proud of the talented nursing teams we have across Cygnet who turn up every day to provide care to some of society's most vulnerable people.

"We owe so much to our nurses and it gives me great pleasure to thank them all and congratulate award winners like Laurie. They improve and transform the lives of thousands of people every year, helping each individual to be the best version of themselves."

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