



**Press Release**

**15 May 2024**

**For Immediate Release**

**Leicester Care Manager Shortlisted For Stars of Social Care Award**

A Care manager from Leicester has been named a finalist in the Stars of Social Care Awards 2024 for the work she does to spread joy to residents in care homes.

Stars of Social Care is a national awards programme for home and social care workers across the UK. The awards are set to be hosted by TV presenter Josie Gibson at The Marriott Regents Park next month.

Cate Ball, of Melton Mowbray, is a regional manager for Cygnet Social Care, responsible for overseeing all of its social care services in the Midlands region.

She has been praised for her commitment and compassionate approach to caregiving by residents and colleagues alike and is a finalist in the Joy Maker award.

This recognises a special individual who spreads joy and happiness amongst their colleagues and residents. Judges of the award have determined Cate to have a unique infectious enthusiasm and is someone who goes above and beyond to ensure the wellbeing and happiness of colleagues and residents.

Cate has been instrumental in organising a number of events for Cygnet social care residents including a summer festival, Christmas market and sports events.

On hearing she was a finalist, Cate said: "I am unexpectedly thrilled to hear that I have been nominated and shortlisted for this award.

"I have worked in Social Care for over 17 years now which demonstrates that it is a job I absolutely love and allows me to positively impact on people's lives and make a real difference. We focus on organising all-inclusive events for the people in our care, and our staff teams to enjoy, that focus on ability rather than disability.

"We have been doing sports events for a number of years now which are a huge success and the happiness is clear to see all round especially when the medals and certificates are given out. Last year we held a Christmas Market which had a unique buzz which we are repeating again this year and we have also added in our Sensory Summer Festival.

"It is so important that the people we support are able to enjoy these social experiences to promote health and wellbeing.

"None of this would be possible without the support of our amazing Managers and staff teams in the Midlands and I thank them all for getting involved and their unlimited enthusiasm."

Cate was nominated by her colleague Penny Robinson, who manages the Conifers care home in Derbyshire.

Describing the difference Cate makes to residents of Cygnet Social Care services, she said: "Cate brings so much joy to the residents by creating life experiences and memories for them to get involved in.

"Her events that she organises gets everyone smiling and they are so inclusive, no matter anybody's ability, they can get involved and enjoy the day.

"The feedback we always receive after these events that Cate has created are always positive and leads to the day being spoken about for weeks after and allows individuals to come up with bigger and better ideas for the next year."

Winners will be announced on 14 June and will be selected by a panel of expert judges, including the CEO of Care England, Martin Green OBE.