



Press Release

Immediate Release

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Maidstone Social Worker Wins National Award for 'Compassionate Leadership'

A Social worker from Maidstone has won a national award for her leadership skills after colleagues praised her 'compassionate' and 'caring' approach.

Paula Tappenden, Head of Social Work and Safeguarding Lead at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone, won the Leadership in Social Work award at the Cygnet Social Work Awards for her exceptional leadership skills.

Judges deemed that her actions that have created real impact and change and that she goes above and beyond the expectations of her job role.

After winning the award, Paula said: "It was a surprise to win the award, I am really aware of the incredible work the other finalists do. I was incredibly touched and honoured my colleagues had taken the time to nominate me. This is another example of how the team at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone do everything possible to hold each other up and support them.

"I came into social work with a clear intention to work with people living with mental health issues, so to win this award is so special. I get to do the job I love and make a positive difference to other people lives.

"The best thing about my job is seeing just how well the team has grown over the last 18 months. We have grown a fantastic Safeguarding Leads team, obtained the Triangle of Care accreditation for how closely we work with our carers and changed the way social work is seen at Maidstone.

"I am so proud of the Social Work team at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone, and the award is for all of us."

Nominating her for the award, her colleagues said: "Since joining Cygnet Hospital Maidstone, Paula has re-invented the Social Work team and built a team which not only encompasses Cygnet Values but who are a true credit to Maidstone Hospital.

"The patients trust Paula and Paula truly cares for everyone in the hospital. She shows everyone who she works equal respect and always treats everyone equally and fairly. She is kind and caring to everyone.

"Paula continuously goes above and beyond, she has outstanding compliments from carers and has transformed how the hospital works with loved ones.

"Paula is a great role model and has a compassionate leadership style."

Jo-Ann McAuliffe, Cygnet's Deputy Director of Nursing, said: "We recognise the difference that our highly talented and passionate social workers and social work assistants make for our services users every single day. We wanted to celebrate the exceptional work they do.

"It was an enormous pleasure to recognise those who make outstanding contributions to the care that our service users and residents receive."

Cygnet Hospital Maidstone, on Gidds Pond Way, is Cygnet Hospital Maidstone is a 63 bed mental health facility for adults.

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