



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

London Mental Health Worker Speaks of Pride After Award Win

A quality manager from a London mental health hospital who has been described as a 'visionary leader' has spoken of his pride after scooping a national award for his work supporting those hospitalised with mental health needs.

Richard Jones, Quality and Compliance Manager at Cygnet Hospital Churchill, scooped one of the top prizes at the Cygnet achievement awards, a day of celebration for caring, dedicated and hard-working health and social care workers.

He was awarded the Trust, Helping Hand award which recognised an individual who has shown how they work flexibly together with a clear commitment to co-production, overcoming barriers and innovating to make Cygnet services even better.

The nomination for Richard read: "In the critical and complex domain of Quality and Compliance, Richard has emerged as a visionary leader and an unwavering advocate for ethical practice and patient welfare.

"His work is a testament to his deep commitment to enhancing the quality of care, ensuring patient safety, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and trust within the healthcare environment.

"Richard's approach to reducing restrictive practices is both innovative and compassionate. He has spearheaded initiatives that not only comply with regulatory standards but also prioritise the dignity, rights, and well-being of patients. His efforts have significantly contributed to the development of more humane and effective care strategies, reducing the reliance on restrictive interventions and promoting a more therapeutic and supportive environment for patients and staff alike.

"Beyond his organisational impact, Richard is a mentor and a guide for his peers. He shares his expertise and insights generously, conducting workshops and offering guidance.

"Richard's dedication to lifting the standards of care and ensuring the ethical treatment of patients has made a profound impact on the healthcare sector, influencing positive change beyond his immediate sphere of influence.

"Richard's nomination for the Helping Hand Award is a recognition of his exceptional contributions to the field of healthcare. He exemplifies the values of trust, compassion, and excellence that this award seeks to honour. Richard's work stands as a beacon of hope and a model of ethical leadership in healthcare."

Cygnets Churchill, on Lambeth Road, is a 56-bed inpatient mental health hospital for men. It has four wards including two emergency acute admissions services and two high support inpatient rehabilitation services.

The awards took place at the Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham and recognised the individuals and teams who make outstanding contributions to health and social care. They were hosted by actress and comedian Sally Phillips, together with her son Olly, who has Down's Syndrome.

Upon receiving the award, Richard said: "Learning I was a finalist this year came as a pleasant surprise. During what has been a challenging yet rewarding year, I'd like to thank each and every person that nominated me.

"I come from a proud working class background and left school with no formal qualifications. I was fortunate to secure my first job as a Support Worker in 2005. This opportunity shaped my leadership, core skills and work ethic.

"Winning any award is a special moment. I strongly believe people go the extra mile when they are provided support, reassurance and recognised for their hard work.

"I feel the awards are essential for colleagues to celebrate and appreciate one another. It's lovely to hear about the excellent work across the services.

"It's a privilege to, influence, lead and be part of such a supportive team. I'd like to thank all the amazing individuals who have influenced my practice and leadership over the years, especially the entire Churchill team and Dr Clare Dickens MBE."

Dr Tony Romero, Cygnets Group CEO, said: "It is always a genuine pleasure for me to hear how Cygnets staff are making an incredible difference to some of society's most vulnerable people. The work they are doing, and the care they are providing, is having a positive impact on so many lives.

"The awards are about recognising and honouring the dedication, compassion and sheer hard work shown by staff who, no matter their role, play a vital part in the provision of patient and resident care.

"Richard is an example of somebody who consistently goes above and beyond for the individuals in his care. He demonstrates passion for his work, commitment to excellence, and an unwavering dedication to our service users."

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Notes to Editors:

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About Cygnet Group

Cygnet Group is a leading provider of health and social care services for young people and adults with mental health needs, acquired brain injuries, eating disorders, autism and learning disabilities within the UK.

www.cygnethealth.co.uk