



Press Release

Immediate Release

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Cygnet Hospital Maidstone Social Worker Wins National Award

Cygnet Hospital Maidstone is celebrating the success of one of its dedicated team members after a social worker who supports women with mental health needs was named Social Worker of the Year.

Saskia Hills won the accolade at Cygnet's annual Social Work Conference and Awards. The event recognised the outstanding achievements of colleagues across Cygnet's nationwide Social Work teams. Saskia, who has been part of Cygnet since the Maidstone hospital, on Gidds Pond Way, first opened, received the award in recognition of her commitment, compassion, and innovative approach to supporting service users.

Saskia said: "Words cannot express how truly grateful I am to have received the Social Worker of the Year award.

"It is such an honour to support people in the way that we do and to be recognised in this way for doing something that I love is indescribable. Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate me, I am blessed to receive your support and encouragement."

Her colleagues' glowing nominations praised Saskia's tireless work, her positivity, and her ability to support patients through successful community discharges.

One colleague wrote: "Saskia works tirelessly for the patients on the ward, ensuring their needs are always considered. She is valued by patients and staff for being honest, caring, and bringing joy and humour to the team, especially in stressful times."

Another nomination added: "She has been instrumental in the successful discharge of six residents over the last two months. Saskia is so innovative in her teaching approaches, coming up with brilliant opportunities for students and colleagues alike. She embodies social work and all that it should be."

Others highlighted her leadership and impact on her team with her nomination reading: "At a time when there was uncertainty and high staff turnover, Saskia held

the team together, offering stability, leadership, and emotional support. She is the heart of the ward."

And one colleague summed up her value to the Maidstone service: "Saskia lives and breathes the Cygnet Values. She is naturally caring and humble, and her quiet confidence and calmness endear her to everyone she works with. She encourages the residents to have hope - which is so powerful. Saskia is someone that all the residents and staff can rely on."

Saskia works on Roseacre Ward, which provides a highly specialised Personality Disorder service for women at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone, a state-of-the-art, 63-bed mental health facility on Gidds Pond Way, part of the Kent Medical Campus. The hospital provides a range of specialist services across four wards for adults with mental health needs.

Cygnet is a leading independent provider of health and social care services for adults and young people with mental health needs, learning disabilities, autism and eating disorders.