Press Release

Immediate Release

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**Hexham Worker Highly Commended at National Great British Care Awards Final**

A dedicated staff member from a care service in Hexham has been recognised on the national stage after being Highly Commended at the final of the Great British Care Awards.

Neil Young, Maintenance Manager at Oaklands, achieved the honour at the national final after previously winning the *Putting People First Award* at the North East regional ceremony.

The awards celebrate excellence across the care sector, recognising individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment, compassion and person-centred support.

Neil was praised by judges for the impact he makes across the service, not only through maintaining the environment but through the kindness and respect he shows to those supported at the service.

Judges said: "Neil puts people first, making an extraordinary impact in everything he does. Through kindness, patience, and genuine respect, he creates a safe, welcoming space where everyone feels valued and equal.

"His quiet reliability and willingness to help install trust and dignity into everyday life shows that compassionate care goes beyond job titles, it's rooted in character and humanity."

Reflecting on the recognition, Neil said: "I was truly honoured to have been highly commended at the care awards. This recognition has left me very proud and I am deeply grateful to those who nominated me."

Neil first progressed to the national final after winning his category at the North East regional round of the Great British Care Awards, where his dedication to residents and colleagues alike stood out to judges.

Ashleigh Yilmaz, service manager, said: "At Oaklands, Neil plays an important role in creating a safe, welcoming environment where residents' independence and individuality are supported every day.

“Neil’s national recognition reflects the strong culture of compassionate, person-centred care that runs throughout the Oaklands team.

“Neil embodies what great care is all about, putting people first, treating everyone with dignity, and making a real difference in the lives of those we support.”