



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Colchester Mental Health Hospital Scoops National Award

Cygnet Hospital Colchester has been awarded the Health Care Service of the Year award with judges praising the 'exceptional standard of care' being delivered at the service.

Cygnet Hospital Colchester is a 59 bed service on Boxted Road, Mile End, providing support for men with learning disabilities, autism or mental health needs. The hospital scooped the top prize at the Cygnet Group achievement awards, a day of celebration for caring, dedicated and hard-working health and social care workers.

The awards took place on 25 June 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 TV presenter Alexander Armstrong.

Upon receiving the award, Lynn Mcghee, hospital manager, said: "We were absolutely delighted to receive this award.

"To get Cygnet Hospital Colchester to a place where we have received such prestigious recognition feels like such a great achievement and adds to what has already been a good year for us. This is testament to the hard work that goes on every day in the hospital with staff doing their utmost to provide the best care they can to our service users and carers and always striving to do better.

"I am personally so proud of the team, and how we have all worked so well together to achieve great things. Everyone has a part to play in making the hospital a success, starting from the initial greeting people receive at reception, to the great food provided by the kitchen, the environment being kept safe and clean by our housekeeping and maintenance teams, therapies provided by our therapy teams, treatment prescribed by our medical team, great care being delivered by our nursing and support worker staff, all whilst being supported by all our other staff at the hospital.

"There is a great sense of teamwork and the positive morale that staff have translates into compassionate care being provided for our service users. People genuinely care about what they do and want to give their best, and this is seen in their day to day work and the resulting positive patient progress. It is so motivating and inspiring to see, and I am so glad to be a part of it all, leading such a successful hospital."

Judges praised the hospital and said: "Patients described staff as 'brilliant' and two family members told us their relatives had been to different hospitals and this was the best one. They told us 'this place is exceptional in every way', 'staff are all good and they know my son, and this helps him as well 'and 'they are not giving up on my son, this place and the people working here are like gifts from God to us'.

"One commissioner fed back that this was the best that he has ever seen his patient since he had known him and that he could see how well everyone has worked with him

"The service is exceptional at treating people with kindness, empathy and compassion."

The award comes after the service was rated Good overall by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in February, with an Outstanding rating for Caring.

Professor Tony Romero, Group CEO, said: "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.

"There is so much for us to be proud of as an organisation, and the winners and shortlisted candidates are representatives of the thousands of colleagues across the country who have made a difference in the lives of others.

"The day was about recognising them, celebrating the difference they make and inspiring one another to keep delivering the very best for those in our care.

"Staff at Cygnet Hospital Colchester consistently go above and beyond for the individuals in our care. They demonstrate passion for their work, commitment to excellence, and an unwavering dedication to our service users."

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Notes to Editors:

For more information, please contact Gemma Attew, External Communications Manager, on gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk or 07718 244811.

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