



Press Release

7 July 2026

For Immediate Release

Leeds Care Worker Wins National Award

A team leader from Leeds described as having an “insatiable appetite” for learning has won a national award for the work he does to support adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Kayode Olawoyin is a Team Leader at Cygnet Social Care's Supported Living in Leeds, which offers residential support to adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Kayode's commitment to continuous learning has strengthened practice at the Cygnet Social Care service and created a safer and more responsive environment for residents. He scooped one of the top prizes at the Cygnet Group achievement awards, a day of celebration for caring, dedicated and hard-working colleagues across the health and social care sector.

He won the Learner of the Year award which celebrates colleagues who have shown dedication to learning and development.

The awards, now in their fourth year, were held at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham, on Thursday 25 June. They were hosted by TV presenter Alexander Armstrong.

The nomination read: “To Kayode, learning is not a phase of his career; it is the heartbeat of his professional identity. I have watched him transform from a competent practitioner into a visionary Team Leader. This nomination is not merely for the qualifications he has gained, but for the profound, tangible impact his learning has had on the lives of our residents and the professional culture of our team.

“One of Kayode's most striking attributes is his humility. We have seen a remarkable evolution in his approach to staff management. He has moved from a directive style to a more coaching-oriented approach.

“By learning how to better support his colleagues, he has fostered a team environment where staff feel safe to learn from their own mistakes, mirrored by his own transparency. He doesn't just manage a team; he mentors them.

“Kayode's appetite for formal education is insatiable.”

Upon receiving the award, Kayode said: "It felt really good to be recognised and celebrated and I do appreciate all the hard work that has been put into my learning over the year.

"Everyone in my service has contributed to my growth and learning. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities given to me and to have achieved recognition at the awards."

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 like Kayode 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."

Ends

Notes to Editors:

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

About Cygnet Health Care

Cygnet Health Care has been providing a national network of high-quality, specialised mental health services for the NHS and local authorities for the past 30 years.

Cygnet Health Care's pioneering services support people with complex and acute mental health needs across the UK.

As one of the best quality providers in mental health services in the country, Cygnet Health Care's focus is always on the best outcomes for those who use or commission its services. 85% of Cygnet's facilities are rated as good or outstanding, which is above the national average.

www.cygnethealth.co.uk

