



Press Release

1 September 2026

For Immediate Release

Middlesbrough neurological care service celebrates four national award nominations

A Middlesbrough neurological care service which supports women with brain injuries is celebrating after securing four finalist places at a national awards ceremony recognising excellence in neurological and complex care.

Cygnnet Newham House, on Hemlington Village Road, has been shortlisted four times at the 2026 Neurological and Complex Care Awards, with recognition for its multidisciplinary team, patient and family support, clinical excellence and leadership.

The four finalist places are:

- Cygnnet Newham House - Best Multidisciplinary Team
- Cygnnet Newham House - Outstanding Patient and Family Support
- Louisa Tinney - Clinician of the Year
- Joanna Yarker - Manager of the Year (North)

Cygnnet Newham House is a 20-bed neuropsychiatric care and treatment facility providing rehabilitation for women affected by acquired brain injuries (ABI). The Cygnnet Health Care service also supports women diagnosed with progressive neurological conditions, including Huntington's disease.

The four nominations recognise the different elements that come together to provide high-quality neurological rehabilitation, from strong clinical leadership and multidisciplinary working to involving and supporting patients and their families.

The recognition follows an impressive year for Cygnnet Newham House. Earlier this year, the service achieved an overall Outstanding rating from Headway, the Brain Injury Association, following a detailed assessment of its specialist acquired brain injury provision.

It was rated Outstanding in four key areas - Culture, Workforce Development, Service Development, and Governance, Leadership, Management and Quality.

Assessors particularly praised the inclusive and person-centred culture at Newham House and highlighted the way care plans are developed collaboratively with the women receiving care and, wherever possible, their families.

Families themselves spoke positively about the support they had received. One described the care as "holistic" and psychological support for families as "amazing care", while another said their relative was well looked after and safe, describing colleagues as kind, caring, friendly and approachable.

The service was also praised for its personalised approach to rehabilitation. Activities are tailored around each woman's pre-injury lifestyle and interests, while individuals are supported to rebuild independent living skills and confidence.

In April, Cygnet Newham House received further recognition when the Care Quality Commission rated the hospital Outstanding for Well-Led and Good across all other areas, giving the service an overall Good rating.

Hospital Manager Joanna Yarker, who is herself shortlisted for Manager of the Year (North), said: "To have four finalist places at the Neurological and Complex Care Awards is a tremendous achievement for Cygnet Newham House and I could not be prouder of our team.

"What makes this recognition so special is that it reflects so many different aspects of the care we provide. Successful neurological rehabilitation is about much more than any one profession or intervention. It requires a whole team working together, listening to the individual and involving the people who are important to them.

"To have our multidisciplinary team and our approach to patient and family support recognised alongside Louisa's Clinician of the Year nomination is fantastic. I am also incredibly honoured personally to be shortlisted for Manager of the Year.

"Combined with our Outstanding Headway rating and Outstanding rating for Well-Led from the CQC, these nominations are a wonderful reflection of the dedication, expertise and compassion our colleagues demonstrate every day."

Cygnet Newham House's four nominations form part of an impressive showing for Cygnet's specialist neurological services at this year's awards.

Across Cygnet, colleagues, teams and services have secured 19 finalist places, spanning categories including multidisciplinary working, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychological support, activities, leadership, rehabilitation innovation and patient and family support.

Cygnet Group itself is also shortlisted for Best Neurological Care Provider, an award it won in 2025.

Cygnet operates 12 neurological services and 100% are rated Good or Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

The winners will be announced on Tuesday 27 October.