Press Release

Immediate Release

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Bradford Social Work Assistant Wins National Award for Dedication to Patients

A Bradford social work assistant has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to supporting people with mental health needs, after winning Social Work Assistant of the Year at a national awards ceremony.

Samreen Akhtar, a Social Work Assistant at Cygnet Hospital Bierley, received the award at the Cygnet Group annual Social Work Conference and Awards, held on Monday 8th September.

Cygnet Hospital Bierley is a 62-bed hospital providing a range of acute and low secure mental health services for men and women. Samreen plays a vital role in supporting patients throughout their recovery.

Samreen was nominated by her colleagues who said: "Samreen continues to demonstrate clear commitment and passion. She not only fulfils her role but day in day out goes above and beyond for the service users in our care as well as carers and colleagues."

They praised the work she does, as Carers Lead, to involve loved ones in the care of their family member. She works closely with carers to improve community provision for carers and has developed new initiatives such as carers newsletters. She also seeks out volunteering opportunities for service users to develop their confidence and boost their independence and life skills.

The nomination added: "Samreen is always available for service users and colleagues and works tirelessly each and every day to make sure service users' needs are met. She significantly improves their quality of life.

"All staff at Bierley speak highly of Samreen and value all that she does, which speaks volumes regarding her positive attitude and outstanding work ethic. She has a can-do attitude and service users are always at the forefront of what she does. We are lucky to have her."

Speaking after her win, Samreen said: "Receiving this award is an incredible honour. I absolutely love my role as a social work assistant because it gives me the chance to help people when they need it most. I am incredibly passionate about what I do

because nothing is more rewarding than making a positive difference in people's lives every day. Having once been in a position where I needed support myself, being able to give back means the world to me.

"Our entire social work team is absolutely fantastic, and I want to thank every single one of them for being such an amazing team. A massive thank you to my managers for always giving me the opportunity to learn, push myself, and grow."

Cygnet Group 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.

The Cygnet Social Work Conference and Awards celebrate the contributions of social workers and social work assistants across the organisation.