

Partnership
Matters

December 2025



Sussex Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

2025



**Positive
Practice
Awards**

An Awards Special Edition

Foreword from our Chief Executive and Chair

Our annual Positive Practice Awards are about recognising and celebrating the work of individuals and teams across Sussex Partnership on behalf of the local communities we serve.

This year we introduced our new values of compassion, accountability and optimism across the Trust - coproduced with 3,000 staff, people with lived experience and our partners. They sum up our DNA as an organisation. We see evidence of these values in action everywhere we go across our services.

The nominees for this year's awards demonstrate these values. We saw examples of staff being compassionate, always trying to understand the experience of others when providing care. We saw people taking responsibility to identify innovative ways to improve care. And we saw examples of hope for the future, with staff doing their absolute best to help people on their road to recovery.

We were delighted to welcome sponsors to the awards event for the first time. We'd like to thank all our sponsors for their generous support - our main sponsor Hunter Healthcare, as well as Bates IT and Wavenet.

We would also like to thank our award presenters including Non-Executive Directors, Governors representing the local community and Experts by Experience. They played an important role not only in presenting the awards but also in taking part in the awards judging process.

We are humbled and incredibly proud of the work people do to improve the lives of the people who need our support, and of the commitment, selflessness and kindness they show to our patients, their families and carers. As a Trust, we know there are areas where we need to do better. It is important we strive to continuously improve quality. This makes it all the more important to recognise what we do well.

Thank you to those who took part in the evening and to all of our staff who make a difference to the lives of people in our community day in and day out.

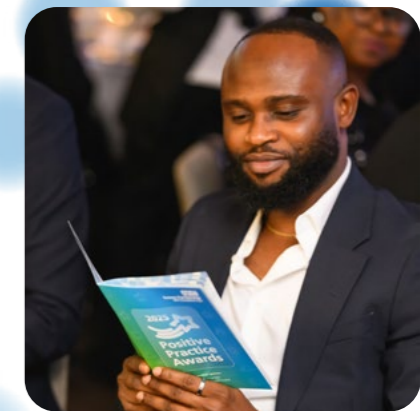


Sean

Sean Duggan
Chair

Padmore

Dr Jane Padmore
CEO



Shining a light on excellence

Positive Practice Awards 2025

On 14 November, 400 staff, experts by experience, governors and event sponsors came together in Brighton for a very special evening of celebration.

Our annual Positive Practice staff awards event is an important moment each year to recognise and thank our staff for their incredible contributions and commitment to providing high-quality care, improving services, and supporting colleagues.

This year, more than 300 nominations were received for nine categories, which included awards for innovation, teamwork, commitment to sustainability and building effective partnerships, as well as two special awards from the Chief Executive Officer and Chair.

Finalists were featured throughout the event with short videos that recognised their contributions to supporting patients, service users, carers, families - and each other.

If you weren't able to attend the ceremony, you can watch a highlights reel at [youtube.com/watch?v=Ps0JF0SHGRA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps0JF0SHGRA) and films of each of the award presentations with the categories throughout the following pages.



And the winners are...

For most categories, senior leaders and experts by experience met to agree on a shortlist, before a panel with a non-executive director, governor, expert by experience and a member of the Executive Team discussed and scored the shortlisted nominees to decide on the winners.

The judges commented on the high standard of nominations this year.

Congratulations to all who were nominated and to the 2025 winners and runners-up.



People First (clinical) Award

Presented by David Wilmott, Interim Chief Nursing Officer, and Sarah Payne, Lead Governor

This award recognises an individual for their consistent dedication to providing high quality care, and for delivering services that are safe, effective and result in a positive experience for patients, their families and carers.

Gold Award:

Corinne Davies
Principal Speech and Language Therapist, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Family Intensive Support Service

Corrinne has been a cornerstone of the CAMHS Family Intensive Support Service for more than 25 years. As a Speech and Language Therapist, Corrinne helps children find their voice - sometimes quite literally - enabling them to express their needs, make choices, and connect with their families in new and life-changing ways.

Silver Award:

Jack Melling
Ward Manager, Palmeira Ward, Mill View Hospital

Bronze Award:

Jarod Newbury
Ward Manager, Selden Centre

Watch the People First (clinical) Award presentation: youtube.com/watch?v=WL0egPP3x0A



Chair's Award

Presented by Sean Duggan, Chair

This award is chosen from the winners of the monthly awards by our Chair, Sean Duggan.

Winner:

Ellie Cherryman
Senior Nurse Practitioner,
Psychiatric Liaison Service,
Royal Sussex County Hospital

Ellie entered the team at a very difficult time with compassion and energy, taking on risk and safeguarding assessments and complex discharges, working effectively with the acute hospital, social workers and the police, and improving both team morale and patient safety.



People First (non-clinical) Award

Presented by Funmi Onamusi, Chief People Officer,
and Ollie Vantini, Expert by Experience

This award recognises an individual for putting people at the heart of everything they do and demonstrating positive outcomes, effectiveness and support to services that provide direct care to patients, carers and families.

Gold Award:

Russell McQueen
Estates Team Leader

Russell always steps up when we he's needed in his maintenance role. He keeps services safe, comfortable, and running smoothly and helps teams think creatively about spaces can be improved for patients.

He helped redesign an accessible room in a rehab unit, and during a major Southern Water incident he checked water levels during a bank holiday ensuring patients could safely stay on our Hastings wards.

Silver Award:

Kait Alderson and Claire Isted
Team Secretaries, High Weald,
Lewes and Havens Specialist
Older Adults Mental Health Service

Bronze Award:

Paul Thompson
Patient and Carer
Experience Lead,
People Participation Team



▶ Watch the People First (non-clinical) Award presentation:
youtube.com/watch?v=XTPOdbIHE_4

▶ Watch the Chair's Award presentation:
youtube.com/watch?v=8fdxNoDdF0g

Partnership in Practice Award

Presented by Dr Colin Hicks, Chief Strategy and Partnerships Officer and Deputy Chief Executive, and Tim Kelsey, Hunter Healthcare

Awarded to an individual or team for finding exceptional ways of working as good partners, designing and delivering services through co-production, and making decisions with patients and with NHS, local authority, voluntary and charity partners.

Gold Award:

Mentalisation-Based Treatment for Men Group

The Mentalising for Men team have built a life-changing service for men with complex trauma and antisocial personality traits - a group often excluded from traditional care.

Working in partnership across primary care, probation, housing and community services they've built a safe, welcoming space, and co-produced a therapy programme. Graduates of the group now help deliver training, bringing lived experience into the heart of the programme.

Silver Award:

Naomi Barkley

Senior Improvement Lead, Strategy and Partnership

Bronze Award:

Alison Croft-Kirkham

Senior Occupational Therapist, Sussex Chiron Offender Personality Disorder Pathway



Watch the Partnership in Practice Award presentation:
[youtube.com/watch?v=bZ6hu-01IzM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZ6hu-01IzM)



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Presented by Dan Charlton, Chief Communications Officer, and Dinesh Bhugra, Non-Executive Director

Awarded for dedication in working towards ensuring that we have a culture where people feel valued and supported, and an environment that champions, celebrates and embraces an inclusive, diverse, and equitable workforce.

Gold Award:

Elaf Abdullah

Support Time Recovery Worker, Falmer Ward, Mill View Hospital

Elaf is an outstanding advocate for equality, inclusion, and staff wellbeing on Falmer Ward at Mill View Hospital. She has shown exceptional courage in challenging discriminatory behaviour and helping to create a safer, more respectful environment for both patients and staff, and a culture where diversity is celebrated, people feel heard, and recovery thrives.

Silver Award:

Cathy Byrne

Service Manager, Sussex Gender Service

Bronze Award:

Kerry Stott

Neurodevelopmental Practitioner, Chichester Assessment and Treatment Service



Watch the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Award presentation:
[youtube.com/watch?v=VYlorA0EQaY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYlorA0EQaY)



Innovation, Learning and Improvement Award

Presented by John Child, Chief Operating Officer, and Andrew Voyce, Expert by Experience

Awarded to an individual or team for demonstrating services that are creative, flexible, responsive, and tailored to individual need, which inform decision making, support innovative advancements and have improved or have the potential to improve quality of care.

Gold Award:

Julie Allan and Kintsugi Team
Hellingly Centre

Julie and her colleagues at the Hellingly Centre have created something truly extraordinary - a therapeutic group inspired by Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold. For patients who have often experienced profound trauma and shame, the group offered a powerful metaphor: that brokenness can be mended, and that our cracks can become part of our strength.

Silver Award:

David Miland
Senior Behaviour Practitioner,
Northern Community Learning
Disability Team

Bronze Award:

Karin Fuchs
Consultant Clinical Psychologist,
West Sussex Learning
Disability Service

▶ Watch the Innovation, Learning and Improvement Award presentation:
youtube.com/watch?v=0du6ajBDSml

Sustainability Award

Presented by Usman Niazi, Chief Finance Officer, and Dr Robert Jackson, Governor

Awarded for significantly contributing to the Trust's ambition to be financially and environmentally sustainable, providing improved value for patients, carers and the public, and helping to reduce our carbon footprint of care.

Gold Award:

Nicola McGinty
Volunteer Gardener,
Forget Me Not Unit

Since 2021, Nicola has dedicated countless hours to creating vibrant gardens at the Forget Me Not Unit. Spending time in nature is proven to help with anxiety and depression, and working alongside activity coordinators and occupational therapists, she supports therapeutic gardening sessions that offer patients purpose, connection, and calm.

Silver Award:

Finance Team

Bronze Award:

Mark Gordon
Transport and Logistics Manager,
Estates and Facilities



▶ Watch the Sustainability Award presentation:
youtube.com/watch?v=NOAaLoJEfNQ

Heads On Heroes Award

Presented by Rachel Blair, Grants and Programmes Manager, and Dr Colin Hicks, Chief Strategy and Partnerships Officer and Deputy Chief Executive

Awarded for delivering a creative, innovative and impactful project using charitable funds, which enabled services to go above and beyond what the NHS can provide.

Gold Award:

Natalie Rowlands

Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist, Shepherd House

Natalie has shown outstanding creativity and commitment in developing and delivering the Fatboy DJ Academy - a truly groundbreaking project bringing the joy of music and DJing to people across both inpatient and community services.

From securing funding and partnering with professional DJs, to co-designing the programme with service users, Natalie has ensured that every session promotes confidence, connection, and hope.

Silver Award:

Mill View Hospital

Bronze Award:

Maria Bejarano

Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner, West Brighton Neighbourhood Mental Health Team (NMHT)

Watch the Heads On Heroes award presentation: youtube.com/watch?v=sS-mZFwGbxm4



Team of the Year (non-clinical) Award

Presented by Funmi Onamusi, Chief People Officer, and Cheryl Lee, Non-Executive Director

This award recognises a team for demonstrating positive outcomes, effectiveness and support to services who provide direct care to patients, carers and families.

Gold Award:

Housing Team

The Housing Team understand that housing isn't just about walls and a roof; it's about dignity, security, and the foundation for better mental health. They listen to, advocate for and stand beside people in their most vulnerable moments, securing stable housing for service users.

Silver Award:

Senior Leadership Team

Hampshire, Sussex and Kent CAMHS Provider Collaborative

Bronze Award:

Clinical Research Delivery Team

Watch the Team of the Year (non-clinical) Award presentation: youtube.com/watch?v=EG9Rh15zvCM

Team of the Year (clinical) Award

Presented by Dr Oliver Dale, Chief Medical Officer, and Simon Blake, Deputy Chair

This award recognises a team for providing high quality care and services that are safe, effective and result in a positive experience for patients, their families and carers, helping us improve outcomes together.

Gold Award:

Pavilion Ward Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Health-Based Place of Safety
Mill View Hospital

The Pavilion Ward Nursing Team has shown exceptional dedication, courage and compassion in delivering safe, person-centred, and respectful care under the most complex and demanding circumstances.

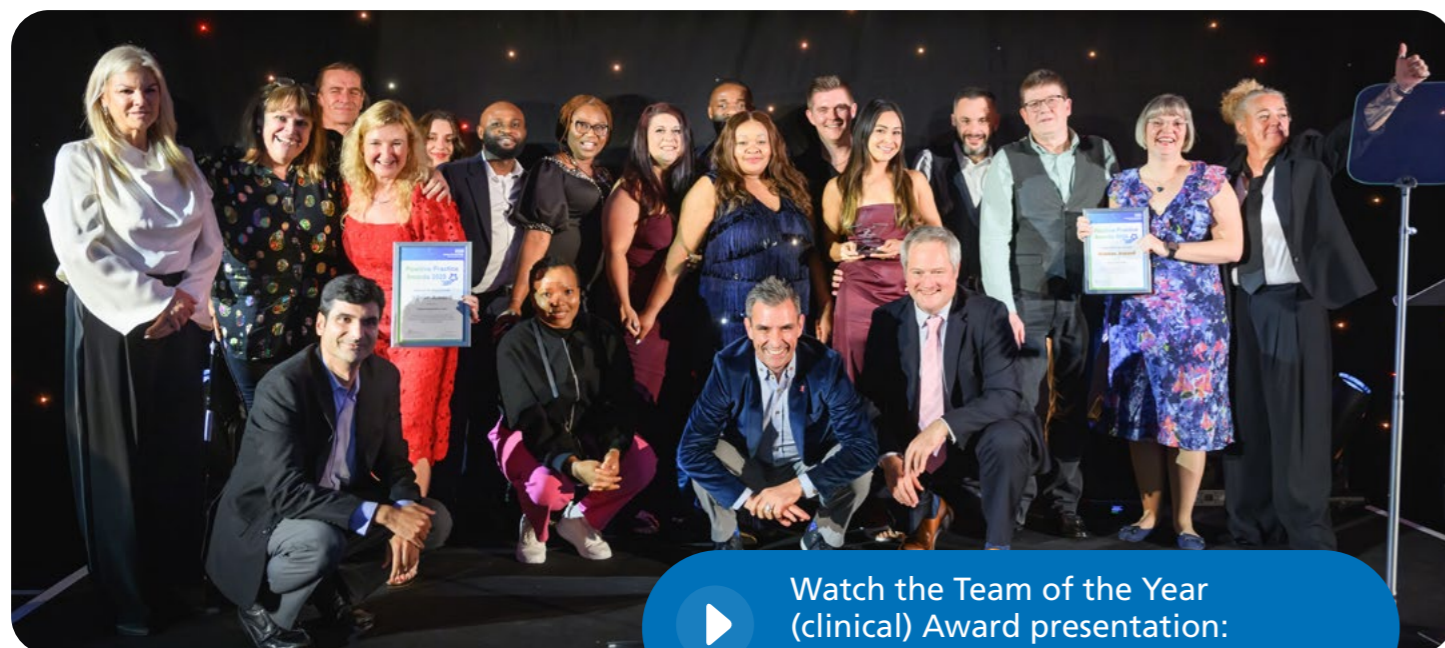
Over the past year, they've supported several patients with highly challenging behaviours often needing prolonged care. Families have praised them for their kindness and colleagues have called them a model of best practice.

Silver Award:

Tobacco Dependency Team

Bronze Award:

Resuscitation Team



Watch the Team of the Year (clinical) Award presentation:
[youtube.com/watch?v=LC2wi7jYWNl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LC2wi7jYWNl)



CEO Award

Presented by Dr Jane Padmore, Chief Executive Officer

This award recognises the exceptional contribution and achievement of an individual or team during the last year, chosen by our Chief Executive, Dr Jane Padmore.

Winner:

Sam Harris
Lead Designer,
Communications Team

This year, it was presented to someone who has given so much to Sussex Partnership behind the scenes. His work is always developed with service users and members of staff in mind, whilst also considering neurodiversity and learning disabilities, and is evident everywhere you go, from leaflets and awareness campaigns to a complete Trust rebrand.



Watch the CEO Award presentation:
[youtube.com/watch?v=gsqJXDnQ3w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsqJXDnQ3w)







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