



2022 NORTHERN IRELAND  
Allied health professionals

# Winners' Guide

Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland 2022

---

**Innovation | Creativity | Leadership | Compassion**

Celebrating the winning entries,  
presented on Thursday 24 November 2022  
Stormont Hotel, Belfast



Chamberlain Dunn Events

The Old Candlemakers, West Street, Lewes BN7 2NZ

T 020 8334 4500 | E [mail@chamberdunn.co.uk](mailto:mail@chamberdunn.co.uk)

[www.chamberlainedvents.com](http://www.chamberlainedvents.com)



# Congratulations to all our winners and finalists

Welcome to the work of the finalists of the 2022 Advancing Healthcare awards Northern Ireland for allied health professionals and those who work alongside them.

The Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland ceremony was held in Belfast at the Stormont Hotel on 24 November. We achieved over 70 entries which is incredible at a time when everyone is under so much pressure. It's a real tribute to the dedication and creativity of AHPs in Northern Ireland.

A special thank you to our sponsors and supporters who not only provided financial support but helped us with the huge task of judging. These organisations are:

- Kingsbridge Healthcare Group
- Public Health Agency
- Ulster University
  
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Northern Ireland
- The Royal College of Podiatry
- The UK Ministry of Defence
- Unite the Union, Unite in Health
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy
- Health and Care Professions Council
- Encompass
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- British and Irish Orthoptic Society
- Society of Radiographers
- Clinical Education Centre
- British Dietetic Association
- AHP Federation Northern Ireland
- Council for Allied Health Professions Research

We went virtual with the judging to make it as time efficient as possible for everyone.

The judges found the experience inspiring and challenging, selecting winners from so many outstanding entries. This Winners' Guide summarises the work of the finalists and gives contact details.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2022 Northern Ireland Awards so successful.

**Alison Dunn and Will Chamberlain-Webber**

Joint managing directors, Chamberlain Dunn

November 2022

Our Winners' Guide is a vital part of the Advancing Healthcare awards programme. We are proud of it for (at least) four reasons:

- 1** It gives participants, guests, entrants and the wider healthcare world a chance to digest more fully the work of the finalists
- 2** It is a more permanent record of the achievements of AHPs in Northern Ireland in 2022 than an awards ceremony can ever achieve
- 3** It gives contact details for those wanting to find out more to build on their own work and to share experiences
- 4** It helps us to stand out from the crowd – very few award organisers take the trouble to deliver this final piece of the jigsaw.

If you would like to be involved in the Advancing Healthcare Awards as a sponsor, judge or simply share some ideas about how we can develop the programme, please contact **Ellie Hayden** on [ellie@chamberdunn.co.uk](mailto:ellie@chamberdunn.co.uk) or call 020 8334 4500

# AWARD FOR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

## WINNER & OVERALL WINNER

**Applying evidence to practice by increasing intensity of intervention for children with severe speech sound disorder: A quality improvement initiative**

**Hilary McFaul, Linda Mulgrew and Justine Smyth, Speech and Language Therapists in Southern Health & Social Care Trust for their quality improvement initiative in applying evidence to practice by increasing intensity of intervention for children with severe speech sound disorder.**

Speech Sound Disorder (SSD) affects up to 25% of UK children and may impact on effective communication, the development of relationships, school progression and overall wellbeing. The evidence base shows that intervention for children with SSD is more effective and efficient when provided intensively in relation to the number of target sounds elicited in sessions (dose) and number of sessions per week (frequency).

Southern's baseline of intensity of therapy intervention was similar to current practice across the UK, where 30 target sounds were elicited in once weekly sessions over 6 weeks,

followed by a break from therapy. This project increased intensity of intervention for children with severe SSD to improve outcomes for them and their families and give every child the best start in life. The involvement of parents and relevant stakeholders was key in identifying and driving transformation. After 12 weeks of intensive intervention all children achieved an increase in percentage consonants correct with a mean increase of 28% and all parents rated their children as more intelligible than they were prior to this intervention using the Intelligibility in Context Scale.

## FINALISTS



**Prehabilitation Services for Breast and Prostate Radiotherapy Patients at North West Cancer Centre**

**Gillian McKittrick**, Treatment Review Specialist Radiographer, **Malcolm Wilkinson**, Lead clinical Specialist Radiographer **and the team** at the *North West Cancer Centre* for their prehabilitation services for breast and prostate radiotherapy patients.

Contact: [gillian.mckittrick@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:gillian.mckittrick@westerntrust.hscni.net)



**NIAS Complex Case Team (CCT) Aidan McDonnell**, Complex Case Officer, **Joanna Smylie**, Complex Case Manager, **and the team** at the *Northern Ireland Ambulance Service* for their person-centred approach to people who are frequent callers to the emergency ambulance service.

Contact: [aidan.mcdonnell@nias.hscni.net](mailto:aidan.mcdonnell@nias.hscni.net)



### CONTACT:

[hilary.mcfaul@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:hilary.mcfaul@southerntrust.hscni.net)

“ The judges chose this team as the overall winner because of the clear evidence of a powerful innovation for an important group of patients with huge potential for adoption elsewhere. An extremely impressive and powerful project with real impact. ”

# AWARD FOR RISING STARS

## Christina Crawford



Christina Crawford, occupational therapist, Western Health & Social Care Trust, an assistant who qualified as an OT as a mature student with a family, showing professional excellence, with huge motivation and determination to achieve her aims.

## Ellen Moore



Ellen Moore, dietitian, Northern Health & Social Care Trust, whose quiet unassuming nature is a clever disguise for a hardworking and dedicated professional, a shining example to peers and students alike.

## Aoife McGrattan



Aoife McGrattan, podiatrist, South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust who has a powerful mix of drive, resilience and compassion, showing a maturity beyond her years.

## Kerith McNally



Kerith McNally, speech and language therapist, Southern Health & Social Care Trust - a ray of sunshine who brings to her work a positive attitude, open mindset, and a willingness to learn and progress.

## Niamh Keaveny



Niamh Keaveny, occupational therapist, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, who is calm under pressure, always willing to help other therapists and junior staff, an excellent advert for her profession.

## Dayna Doherty



Dayna Doherty, paramedic, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, who recently qualified as a paramedic, having received a cancer diagnosis during her training – she is kind, caring, radiating empathy and enthusiasm.

# AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

SPONSORED BY KINGSBRIDGE HEALTHCARE GROUP



## WINNER

### Dietitian led direct ordering of oral nutritional supplements for care home residents

**Lucy Hull** from Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, **Siobhan McCaffrey** from Western Health & Social Care Trust and **Elizabeth Armstrong** from Northern Health & Social Care Trust for their joint dietitian-led project on direct ordering of oral nutritional supplements for care home residents.

Northern Ireland lacks mechanisms to allow dietitians working at interfaces between primary and secondary care to prescribe treatments directly to their patients. New Models of Prescribing facilitated dietitians ordering oral nutrition supplements (ONS) via stock order for care home patients without the need for a GP prescription.

At the time of the project dietitians did not have prescribing rights., Dietitians, however, have the skills and expertise to assess and monitor nutritional needs. Two supply mechanisms were tested: supplements supplied by community pharmacists and those supplied by Business Services

Organisation Procurement and Logistic Services.

The project tested dietetic-led ordering of ONS for care home residents without the need for a GP prescription. Monthly stock orders for each care home were raised by the dietitian rather than individual resident orders. The project ran from April to June 2021 in three Trusts. Six care homes and 6 dietitians participated. The community pharmacy supply route reduced the time taken to supply, and the project showed benefits for patients, care homes, GPs, pharmacists and dietitians and also reduced costs.

## FINALISTS



### Whiteabbey Nightingale Ward 1 enhanced AHP & nursing led regional rehabilitation

From the Whiteabbey Nightingale in Northern Health & Social Care Trust, the **Nightingale AHP Team**, for the Ward 1 Enhanced AHP and nursing-led regional rehabilitation service which has saved over 11,000 acute bed days.

Contact: [leeann.clarke@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:leeann.clarke@northerntrust.hscni.net)

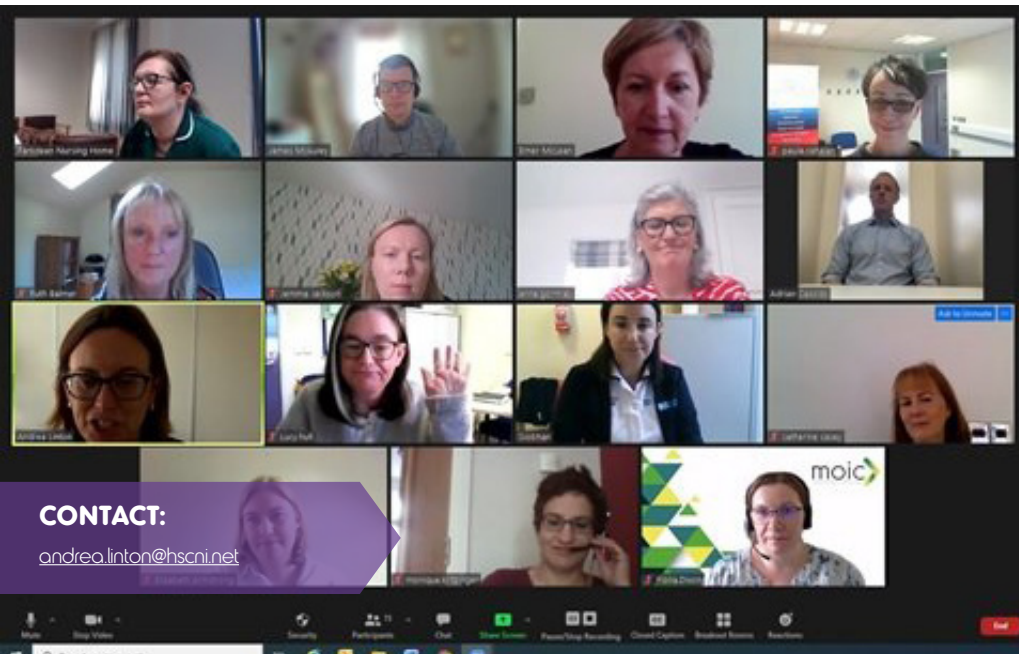


### Let's Talk Backs

**Gillian Graham** and **Mary Nickel**, Clinical Lead Physiotherapist Orthopaedic Spine in Belfast Health & Social Care Trust for their Let's Talk Backs initiative to clinically validate patients awaiting lumbar discectomy surgery.

Contact: [gillianp.graham@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:gillianp.graham@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

“ The judges felt that the winners presented an excellent example of evidence-based collaborative project demonstrating cost effectiveness and innovation, and with great potential for scaling up. ”



### CONTACT:

[andrea.linton@hscni.net](mailto:andrea.linton@hscni.net)

# THE AWARD FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION

## WINNER

### Digital champions

**Peter Burbidge**, Podiatry Head of Service, and **Stephen Powell**, Head of ICT Programmes and Projects, in South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust who created a network of Digital Champions.

Technology designed to improve patient outcomes and make life easier for staff was not being fully utilised with digitally illiterate staff unable to embrace and promote new technology. This innovative project created and empowered a network of digitally literate staff to support their peers and lead the digital transformation.

Digital and technological advancements designed to improve the outcomes for patients and make life easier for staff were not being utilised to their full capacity with digitally illiterate staff unable to fully embrace digital technology. The innovative Digital Champions project is designed to create and support a network of digitally literate staff across

all grades, disciplines and roles so that they can provide crucial peer support for their colleagues and encourage them to have a better understanding of the technology available to them and how best to utilise it.

The project is working across boundaries and hierarchical structures utilising the digital skills of the entire workforce to increase the digital literacy of their peers. All the technology used in HSCNI is designed to benefit both the clinician and the service user, but it can only do this if the clinicians know how to use it. The aim of this project was to ensure that staff are equipped with the skills required to effectively use relevant digital technology and associated systems.

## FINALISTS



**“Stepping out, staying out”**

**Laura Ornsby**, Lead Occupational Therapist, and **Nuala Canning**, Advanced Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist in Belfast Health & Social Care Trust for their “Stepping out, staying out” educational film to help people discharged from the regional medium secure hospital.

Contact:

[laura.ornsby@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:laura.ornsby@belfasttrust.hscni.net)



**Online Eating, Drinking and Swallowing (EDS) Guide for healthcare providers**

**Emma Macdonald**, Speech and Language Therapist and **Clare Stevenson**, Project Co-ordinator Dysphagia Support Team in South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust who created an online eating, drinking and swallowing guide to help healthcare professionals give better support.

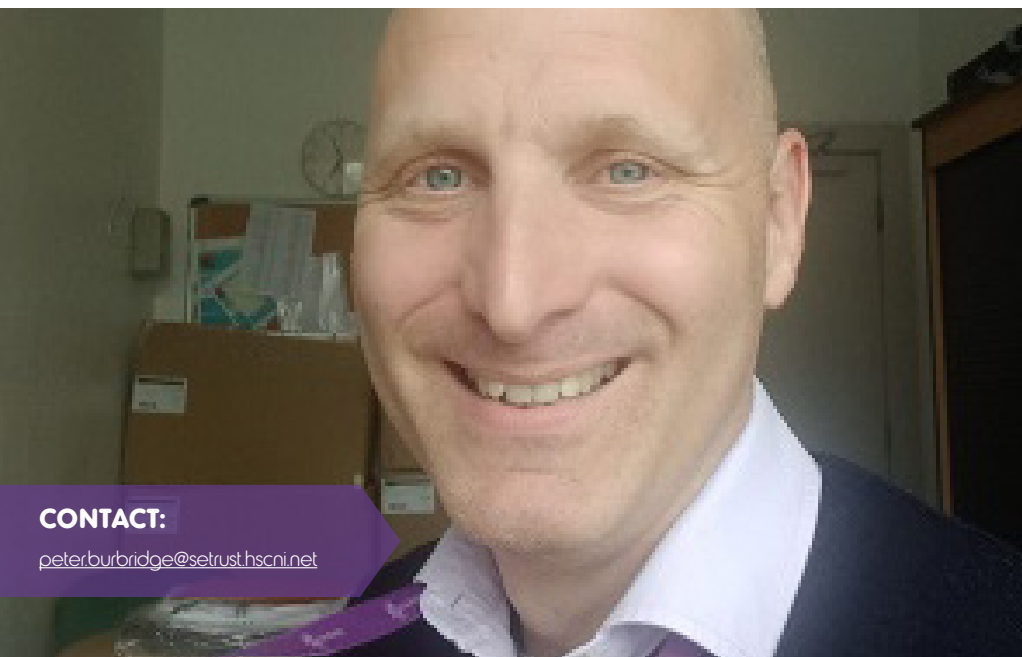
Contact:

[e.macdonald.st@gmail.com](mailto:e.macdonald.st@gmail.com)

“ The judges agreed that the winner displayed an exemplar approach to digital and health literacy which is essential for transformation to be achieved - a fantastic initiative that should be adopted elsewhere. ”

### CONTACT:

[peterburbidge@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:peterburbidge@setrust.hscni.net)



# AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN A SUPPORT ROLE

## WINNER

### Physiotherapy Assistant's role in provision of group-based rehab

The physiotherapy assistants' role in South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust in providing group-based rehabilitation with the emphasis on maintaining wellness, nominated by **Eilis McGarvey**.

Group based exercise classes form an integral part of management of patients attending physiotherapy for musculoskeletal issues in South Eastern Trust. These classes would not be possible without the vital role of the Physiotherapy Assistants. They offer the unique ability to move emphasis from treating musculoskeletal problems towards maintaining wellness.

The assistants are highly motivated members of the team some of whom have background in sports and exercise. They have ability to 'de-medicalise' the patient's presenting condition and direct focus to improving health and wellbeing. They adopt an approach that focuses on strength and conditioning while improving function. Current classes include: Escape - Enabling Self-

Management and Coping with Arthritic Pain using Exercise; Movement matters – a range of low impact exercises targeted at those with underlying functional deficits; and Pool class / Aqua rehab. – water-based exercise programme for those with chronic pain and long-term conditions.

The assistants provide new ideas on how to display information within the class, updating layout to make understanding the exercises easier. They provide new ideas on variations of exercises. The assistant can monitor technique and provide advice to any participants that struggle with exercise. They lead warm up and cool down and complete outcome measures making for a much smoother running and more efficient class.

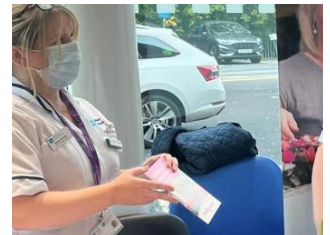
## FINALISTS



**Undeniable benefits of an acute Dietetic Assistant Practitioner (DAP)**

**Ellen Robinson**, Dietetic Assistant Practitioner in Northern Health & Social Care Trust, who demonstrated the clear benefits of the role in the nutritional care of in-patients.

Contact:  
[edundee92@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:edundee92@hotmail.co.uk)



**Assistant Practitioner's outstanding contribution to Patient Informed Choice**

**Paula Kennedy**, Assistant Practitioner, Breast Imaging, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, who has become the foundation of the Patient Informed Choice team

Contact:  
[paula.kennedy@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:paula.kennedy@belfasttrust.hscni.net)



### CONTACT:

[eiles.mcgarvey@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:eiles.mcgarvey@setrust.hscni.net)

“ The judges thought that the winners were providing a terrific service with data that shows the effectiveness of the assistant role on patient outcomes – an excellent use of resources. ”

# AWARD FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

## WINNER

### Research into Traction Orthoses for managing complex finger fractures

**Daniel Harte**, Advanced Practitioner Occupational Therapist in Trauma, Orthopaedics and Hand Therapy, and the **Hand Therapy Team** at Southern Health & Social Care Trust for their research into traction orthoses for managing complex finger fractures.

This is the only Trust that offers traction orthoses as a treatment option in Northern Ireland. Traction orthoses (splints) have been successfully integrated into the orthopaedic management of complex finger fractures. Traction orthoses are used to realign fractures in the hand. Outcomes to date have been generally successful in avoiding the need for surgery by achieving satisfactory bone position, reducing pain, and when the patient has discontinued the orthosis, regaining excellent range of movement and function.

These have been measured using validated outcome measures and patient feedback. Economic benefits are also noted with estimated average surgical costs of £2,123 compared to OT at £98.37. A service evaluation has shown patients treated with traction

achieved superior movement at six weeks compared to a study which followed people after surgical intervention.

Daniel has ensured that governance and findings are clear to the service user and to the team so that learning and development of both clinicians and service users (locally and globally) can benefit. It has involved continued communication, having clear and active involvement with the service user, taking their feedback and treatment outcomes and collaboration between occupational therapists and orthopaedic hand surgeons and networking with global experts. Daniel's networking has helped build vital relationships with external and internal stakeholders to enable the effective delivery of this intervention and also co-ordinating research.

## FINALISTS



**iREACH: Institute of Research Excellence for Advanced Clinical Healthcare**

**Professor Judy Bradley**, Professor of Physiotherapy and Director of Clinical Research Facility, Wellcome Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine, Queen's University Belfast for iREACH: the Institute of Research Excellence for Advanced Clinical Healthcare.

Contact:  
[Judy.Bradley@qub.ac.uk](mailto:Judy.Bradley@qub.ac.uk)



**Establishing a Research and Development Department in the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service**

**Julia Wolfe**, Research and Development Manager in the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service who established the research and development department to ensure the service has a key role in research delivery.

Contact:  
[julia.wolfe@nias.hscni.net](mailto:julia.wolfe@nias.hscni.net)

“ The judges thought that the winners presented an excellent piece of research, with outcomes and cost benefits clearly shown – brilliant collaboration and engagement throughout. ”

### CONTACT:

[Daniel.Harte@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Daniel.Harte@southerntrust.hscni.net)





# AWARD FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN PUBLIC HEALTH

SPONSORED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY

## WINNER

### Sure Start 'Chat with Me' book series

Sure Start 'Chat with Me' book series created by **Anne McKee**, Lead Speech and Language Therapist, from Sure Start in Belfast and **Karen Diamond**, Music Therapist, Diamond Music Therapy Service.

Parents report that these specially created books make it easier for them to share books with their toddlers and develop conversations together based on the child's interests. This contingent talk is a key ingredient in supporting language development and therefore helping to reduce the language gap associated with social disadvantage.

The books give parents ideas about opportunities to chat with their child anytime. They are designed around research findings that 'contingent talk' and 'conversational turns' are key ingredients in positive parent child interactions leading to improved language development and enhancing parent/child relationships.

Research has shown that singing can make language learning easier and so the words in the book are a song. Feedback from a small sample of 46 parents confirms behaviour change: 98% shared books with their child more frequently; 98% had more

conversations while sharing the books and 98% said the books gave them ideas about activities they could do with their child. Parents reported increase in child's focus when sharing the book and carers with literacy difficulties reported increased confidence in book sharing. All SureStarts in Northern Ireland use the books which are in all public libraries. This scale made it possible to keep unit cost low. Irish translation is in process which will extend the reach.

“ The judges thought this was an excellent project, developed by a wide range of partners to produce valuable resources. It encapsulates partnership working, early intervention and co-production. ”

## FINALISTS



**Community Resuscitation Programme Northern Ireland**

**Stephanie Leckey**, Community Resuscitation Lead, **Jacqueline O'Neill** and **Karen Seddon Muldoon**, Community Resuscitation Officers, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service for their Community Resuscitation Programme.

Contact: [stephanie.Leckey@nias.hscni.net](mailto:stephanie.Leckey@nias.hscni.net)



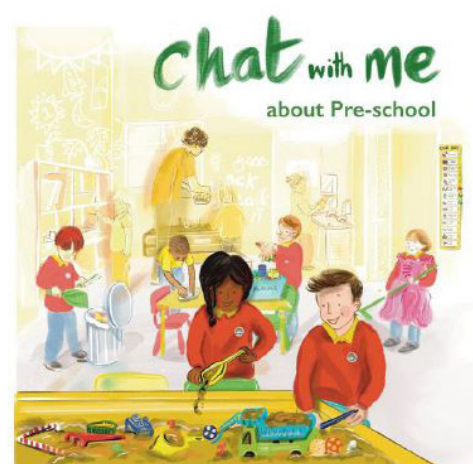
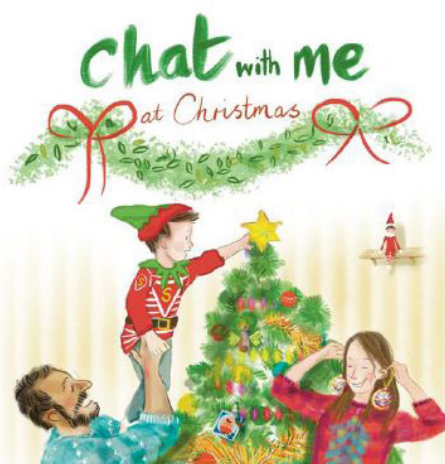
**Reducing Risk ... improving quality for children and young people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties in education settings in Northern Ireland**

**Alison Ferris**, AHP Consultant, Public Health Agency for her work in reducing risk and improving quality for children and young people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties in education settings.

Contact: [alison.ferris@hscni.net](mailto:alison.ferris@hscni.net)



**CONTACT:**  
[annef.mckee@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:annef.mckee@belfasttrust.hscni.net)



# ULSTER UNIVERSITY OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD



## WINNER

**Beth McCarragher**, occupational therapy graduate, Ulster University, who recently commenced a full-time rotational post within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and is currently based in a community adult learning disability team for Craigavon and Banbridge area.



### CONTACT:

[mccarragher-b@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:mccarragher-b@ulster.ac.uk)

## FINALIST



**Chloe McLean**, healthcare science cardiology graduate, Ulster University, who, having volunteered in Africa and witnessed the devastating effects of delayed diagnosis, developed a keen interest in a healthcare role where she could perform life-saving diagnostic testing and is an ambassador for her role as a Cardiac Physiologist.

Contact:

[McLean-C11@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:McLean-C11@ulster.ac.uk)

# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR JUDGES

**Michelle Tennyson**, Deputy Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Professions, Public Health Agency

**Shane Elliott**, Housing and Health Liaison Officer, Department of Health Northern Ireland

**Professor Suzanne Martin**, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, Department of Health Northern Ireland

**Jill Bradley**, Assistant Director, AHP Governance, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

**Eileen Dolan**, Head of AHPs, Western Health and Social Care Trust

**Brenda Byrne**, Interim Assistant Director of AHP Governance, Workforce Development & Training, Southern Health and Social Care Trust

**Aveen McCraith**, Assistant Director Allied Health Professionals, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

**Lorraine Coulter**, Lead Professional for SLT, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

**Declan McClements**, Head of Orthoptics Southern Health and Social Care Trust

**Mark Regan**, Chief Executive, Kingsbridge Healthcare Group

**Elaine McConnell**, AHP Co-Director, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

**Neil Sinclair**, Assistant Clinical Director, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

**Cora Regan**, Professional Lead for Imaging, Diagnostic Radiography, Department of Health Northern Ireland



Chamberlain Dunn Events

The Old Candlemakers, West Street, Lewes BN7 2NZ

T 020 8334 4500 | E mail@chamberdunn.co.uk

www.chamberlaidunn.com

