



Winners' Guide

Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland 2024

Innovation | Creativity | Leadership | Compassion

Celebrating the winning entries,
presented on Thursday 10 October 2024
Stormont Hotel, Belfast



Chamberlain Dunn Events

The Old Candlemakers, West Street, Lewes BN7 2NZ

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

www.chamberlaidunn.com



Congratulations to all our winners and finalists

Welcome to the work of the finalists of the 2024 Advancing Healthcare awards Northern Ireland for allied health professionals, healthcare scientists and those who work alongside them.

The Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland ceremony was held in Belfast at the Stormont Hotel on 10 October. We achieved over 100 entries this year, which is a fantastic achievement at a time when the healthcare workforce is facing so many challenges. It's a huge tribute to the dedication and creativity of AHPs and healthcare scientists 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:

- Clinical Education Centre, part of the Business Services Organisation
- HSC Leadership Centre
- 38 (Irish) Brigade & Northern Ireland Garrison
- Public Health Agency
- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
- Institute of Biomedical Science
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- Ulster University
- Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists
- Allied Health Professions Federation Northern Ireland
- British and Irish Orthoptic Society
- Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Northern Ireland

Our judging day was kindly hosted by the Clinical Education Centre on Monday 16 September 2024. 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 2024 Northern Ireland Awards so successful.

Alison Dunn and Will Chamberlain-Webber

Joint managing directors, Chamberlain Dunn
November 2024

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 and Healthcare Scientists in Northern Ireland in 2024 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 or call 020 8334 4500

Dare to dream bigger

This year I launched a five year IMPACT vision for AHPs in Northern Ireland which challenges us to go beyond what is expected. To dare to dream bigger, strive for excellence and push the boundaries of what is possible. At the heart of the vision lies innovation, Multidisciplinary Collaboration, Partnering for Independence, Advocacy for Access, Community first and Transformation leadership. Allied Health Professionals have a valuable contribution to make to system-wide transformation of health and social care and its essential we make our impact known.

The Advancing Health Care Awards have provided us with an opportunity to showcase the innovation and valuable contribution Allied Health Professionals have to make within Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland. We gathered on 10 October to celebrate the brilliance, the innovation, and sheer determination of Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists. Whether it's through the precision of diagnostics, rehabilitation that gives people back their independence, or the research that brings new hope to the most challenging conditions, Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists are the change-makers, the innovators, and the boat rockers challenging the status quo. The award winners' achievements don't just reflect personal success; they raise the standard for excellence in our professions. They have shown us all what's possible when dedication and vision come together to push the boundaries of care. I wish to thank everyone for their personal efforts, personal sacrifices and expertise. It is this unwavering commitment to improving patient outcomes that drives our health and social care system forward.



Michelle Tennyson
Chief Allied Health Professions Officer,
Department of Health Northern Ireland

AWARD FOR THE BEST COLLABORATION ACROSS CLINICAL, ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY

Sponsored by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

WINNER & OVERALL WINNER

ADVOCATE –

ADVancing radiOtherapy teChniques as A TEam

The FAST clinic team Northern Ireland Cancer Care Centre
Team represented by **Stacey Conway**, Lead Clinical Research Radiographer – Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Network, **Grace Totten**, Clinical Research Radiographer – Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Network and **Sarah-Jane Flynn**, Urology Site Specialist Radiographer

The FAST Clinic at the Cancer Centre, Belfast, represents a ground-breaking advancement in radiotherapy for prostate cancer. Through innovative clinical trials, the clinic has provided over 100 patients with access to advanced image-guided radiotherapy, significantly reducing the traditional treatment protocol from 39 sessions to just five using Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR).

The expertise developed in these trials has now extended to standard care, enabling an additional 226 patients to receive prostate SABR radiotherapy in a five-fraction regimen. This shift to SABR has led to a substantial reduction in treatment fractions by approximately 87%, for these patients.

As a result, the department has increased treatment capacity ensuring that more cancer patients can access radiotherapy in a timely manner. The FAST Clinic continues to play a critical role in advancing cancer treatment through research and innovation, directly benefiting patient care.

“...shows collaboration at its most powerful to completely transform the patient experience and enabling far more patients to be treated much faster.”

CONTACT: Stacey Conway, Lead Clinical Research Therapy Radiographer, Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Network, stacey.conway@belfasttrust.hscni.net



FINALISTS



Development of bespoke virtual therapy-modernising treatment delivery, utilising current resources efficiently and meeting NICE guidelines

Emma Dunn, Occupational Therapist Advanced Practitioner Level 2, and Dermot Quinn, Occupational Therapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, in collaboration with eXRt Intelligent Healthcare

This bespoke development of therapy virtual environments with eXRt Healthcare uses unique algorithms for submersion controls. Patients are more motivated and engaged, with increased adherence to rehab plans, speeding up recovery time and hospital discharge, and increasing capacity. Easy to use, and adaptable to various OT environments.

Contact: **Emma Dunn**, Occupational Therapist Advanced Practitioner Level 2, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, emma.dunn@belfasttrust.hscni.net



Out of hospital cardiac arrest 5-year review research study

Julia Wolfe, Research and Development Manager, and Emma McCorkell, Research Paramedic, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, in collaboration with Professor Adele Marshall and Dr Aleks Novakovic from Queen's University Belfast, funded by Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke

The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), funded by Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke (NICHHS), and in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast (QUB), are conducting a five-year retrospective review of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) data. With NIAS becoming a more research-active organisation, this review aims to improve survival rates and patient outcomes by developing new services and streamlining existing processes.

Contact: **Julia Wolfe**, Research and Development Manager, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, julia.wolfe@nias.hscni.net

AWARD FOR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

Sponsored by the Clinical Education Centre,
part of the Business Services Organisation

WINNER

Expansion of Southern Trust Acute Care at Home Team

Niamh Canavan, Physiotherapist, **Catherine Murchan**, Occupational Therapist, and **Yvonne Hanna**, Team Manager, Acute Care at Home Team Southern Health and Social Care Trust

The Acute Care at Home team is a multi-disciplinary, consultant-led team, providing hospital at home treatment, growing incrementally since 2014. This hospital at home service has reduced inappropriate referrals from hospital by 25%, demonstrating value for money by bed days saved, while being able to treat unwell older people at home.

The team have created an inspired purpose and shared vision with the stakeholders during the expansion and enhancement of AHP roles. They have presented shared learning at the UK hospital at Home

Conference in March and internationally in Lisbon, Sweden and Barcelona, as well as linking with colleagues in the other teams across NI to encourage support and transferability regionally.

“...a highly successful project with real impact. It's a win-win scheme that keeps older people out of hospital and enables them to be treated at home.”

CONTACT: Niamh Canavan, Physiotherapist, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, niamh.canavan@southerntrust.hscni.net



FINALISTS



The Speech and Language Therapy led ENT Parallel clinic service – a transformational pathway

Carolyn Greer and Laura Connolly, Specialist Advanced Practitioner Speech and Language Therapists, South Eastern Health and Social care Trust

This advanced practitioner SLT-led clinic has reduced wait by over 7 years for patients with voice and upper airway conditions, with approximately 90% never having to see an ENT doctor, and 70% not needing further input from SLT.

Contact: **Carolyn Greer**, Specialist Advanced Practitioner Speech and Language Therapist, South Eastern Health and Social care Trust, carolyn.greer@setrust.hscni.net



Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Integrated Clinical Hub

Karl Bloomer, Consultant Paramedic (Urgent Care), Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

This service directs 999 callers to the most appropriate healthcare at the point of their call, ensuring they Get It Right First Time for patients, making emergency ambulances more readily available to get to the sickest, quickest.

Contact: **Karl Bloomer**, Consultant Paramedic (Urgent Care), Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, Karl.Bloomer@nias.hscni.net



Occupational Therapy – advanced practice microneedling service in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Regional Burns Unit

Ursula Kelly, Occupational Therapy Assistant Service Manager, and Jude Gordon, Clinical Lead Occupational Therapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

These advanced practice OTs use microneedling techniques to improve burns scars, improving psychosocial wellbeing for patients, while reducing the need for surgery and freeing up surgeons' time.

Contact: **Ursula Kelly**, Occupational Therapy Assistant Service Manager, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, ursula.kelly@belfasttrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science



WINNERS

Milkshakes Matter: a collaborative approach to enhancing the nutritional and dysphagia care of frail nursing home residents

Heather Stevenson, Speech and Language Therapist, and **Katherine Hudson**, Dietitian, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

The team worked in partnership with a care home, providing at-the-elbow dysphagia and nutritional support bespoke to staff needs. The 'whole home', collaborative approach increased provision of fortified menu options for all residents, including those with

dysphagia who are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition. Oral Nutritional Supplement use was reduced by 82.3% while improving residents' choice and malnutrition risk, maintaining safety, and reducing dietetic referrals.

CONTACT: Heather Stevenson, Speech and Language Therapist, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, heather.stevenson2@northerntrust.hscni.net



“...highly supportive partnership demonstrating strong leadership, and relationship building to enhance patient safety and care.”

Respiratory Investigation and Sleep Diagnostic Service

Lisa McManus, Chief Respiratory Physiologist Western Health and Social Care Trust

Through the formation and growth of the Respiratory Investigation and Sleep Diagnostic Service, which assists in the diagnosis and

treatment of lung disease and sleep disorders, the team have been able to provide a wide range of routine and complex investigations to the people of Fermanagh and Tyrone, allowing patients to access essential services closer to home. This provision has significantly increased the service capacity in WHSCT, with a 2000% increase in the southern sector over a period of 11 years. By providing optimal patient centred care, the team now have a well-established service which is continuing to develop.



CONTACT: Lisa McManus, Chief Respiratory Physiologist Western Health and Social Care Trust, Lisa.McManus@westerntrust.hscni.net

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Northern Ireland Healthcare Science steering group

Sinead Fitzpatrick, Senior Cardiac Physiologist, Letterkenny University Hospital and Western Health and Social Care Trust

Healthcare Science steering group emerged on a virtual platform during COVID and has developed fast to support healthcare scientists across NI, with such issues as education and training and patient safety.

Contact: **Sinead Fitzpatrick**, Senior Cardiac Physiologist, Letterkenny University Hospital and Western Health and Social Care Trust, healthcarescience.ni@gmail.com

FINALIST



Northern Ireland quality standard for imaging team

Richard Gould, Senior Project Manager, Regional Medical Imaging Board, Strategic Planning and Performance Group, Department of Health, **Mark Cadden**, Quality Standard for Imaging Lead, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and **the team** across Southern, Western, Northern, and Belfast Health and Social Care Trusts

This collaborative team embedded the Quality Standard for Imaging and other awards of Accreditation to give third party recognition that imaging service show competence to deliver high quality services by competent staff in a safe environment.

Contact: **Richard Gould**, Senior Project Manager, Regional Medical Imaging Board, Strategic Planning and Performance Group, richard.gould@hscni.net

“...an inspirational and visionary leader... who has singlehandedly set up the service which is now well-established and continuing to develop.”

AWARD FOR CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

WINNER

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service cardiac arrest masterclass project

Clinical Education Team, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

This project designed, developed, and delivered a novel format 'masterclass' education day regarding out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) for Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) clinical staff.

The masterclass project provided a reimagined education experience for NIAS clinical staff. The learner-focussed approach led to a 20% increase in confidence in CPR performance for clinical staff alongside improved outcomes for the population of Northern Ireland, with a 35% increase in survival to 30 days post-cardiac arrest in 2023.

This project can also be replicated for other areas of clinical practice within NIAS. For example, the effective management of traumatic injuries often requires complex team-working which is well suited to a 'masterclass' format of learning. New

stakeholders and service users can be engaged from the projects inception. The OHCA project could be expanded and adapted to other groups of people who support the chain of OHCA survival in NI. For example, community first responders, police and fire officers, and coastguard staff could all benefit from shared, collaborative, contemporary cardiac arrest education.

“...a new vision, not only changing the culture of education within the service but making a huge difference to patient outcomes.”

CONTACT: Paul Corns, Consultant Paramedic, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, paul.corns@nias.hscni.net



FINALISTS



Dysphagia training, leading the way across the UK

Alison Ferris, AHP Consultant, Public Health Agency, and Fiona McCallion, Assistant Head, HSC Clinical Education Centre

The team provide training packages to the public and healthcare staff for increased awareness of eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties, freeing up clinical time to help bring waiting lists down.

Contact: **Alison Ferris**, AHP Consultant, Public Health Agency, alison.ferris@hscni.net



Sensory Motor Circuits in Primary Schools

Children Core Occupational Therapy team and RISE NI Occupational Therapy team, Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Due to this project, teachers and classroom assistants can now access training and resources to support children with OT needs ensuring early intervention and building capacity to reduce waiting times for OT services.

Contact: **Jill McGivern**, Occupational Therapy Clinical Lead CYP, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Jill.mcgivern@southerntrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN A SUPPORT ROLE

WINNER

Personalised memory aids

Julie McCullough

Rehabilitation Coach, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Memory impairment after brain injury is a hidden difficulty. Julie has worked alongside service users and families coproducing bespoke memory aids.

Personalised memory aids for people following brain injury ensures that strategies are tailored to each individual's unique needs, preferences and abilities, promoting independence. Involvement of carers empowers them to play an active role in their family member's rehabilitation reducing the burden on healthcare resources.

“ A worthy recipient of this award, demonstrating the ability to enhance patient experience, improve efficiency and contribute positively to the team and service, with an abundance of innovation, compassion and co-production. ”

CONTACT: Julie McCullough, Rehabilitation Coach, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, Jill.holden-downes@setrust.hscni.net



FINALISTS



Swallow Aware Campaign

Alison McCusker, Project Manager for Dysphagia NI, Public Health Agency

This project supports people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties by engaging with service users, families and healthcare professionals; harnessing communication routes and social media to reach out to the hospitality industry, to prevent hospital admissions.

Contact: **Alison McCusker**, Project Manager for Dysphagia NI, Public Health Agency, alison.mccusker@hscni.net



Podiatry Assistant Practitioner, providing support, advice and foot health education for patient living with diabetes

Northern Ireland Regional Podiatry Assistant Practitioners teams

Podiatry assistant practitioners, now in all five Trusts, help patients to manage their own foot care and to understand risk factors so maximising the resource available to the podiatry service.

Contact: **Cheryl Baillie**, Principal Podiatrist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, cheryl.baillie@belfasttrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CANCER CARE

SPONSORED BY MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

WINNER

Advanced cancer toolkit

Macmillan Community Palliative Care Service Improvement Team, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

When a service user highlighted that the Trust cancer health and well-being (H&WB) information was not appropriate for patients with advanced cancer, an online Advanced Cancer Toolkit was created, inspired by patient feedback and co-designed by service users.

People living with advanced cancer now have access to personalised co-designed online resources and expert guidance, empowering them with vital knowledge and support to enhance their quality of life, manage symptoms and make informed decisions about their care.

This resource is accessible by anyone online and is easily replicable. Presentation slides and transcripts can be used to provide written versions as requested, and most resources are applicable irrespective of location.

“...a fantastic model of co-design, leading to a strong user-focused service, and filling a gap in information for patients with advanced cancer.”

CONTACT: Alison Craig, Macmillan Palliative Care Facilitator (OT), Northern Health and Social Care Trust, alison.craig@northerntrust.hscni.net



FINALISTS



Cancer prehabilitation project

The Prehabilitation team, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

The team enable people to improve their physical, nutritional and emotional wellbeing before treatment, to enhance treatment tolerance, recovery and beyond, demonstrating the value of a dedicated AHP cancer prehabilitation team.

Contact: **Sarah Lowry**, Macmillan Prehabilitation Project Manager, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, sarah.lowry@northerntrust.hscni.net



Macmillan Advanced Practitioner Oncology Dietitians - impact of early intervention & enhanced recovery

Michelle Ruddy and Aine O'Neil, Macmillan Advanced Practitioner Oncology Dietitians, Ciara McSherry, Macmillan Clinical Lead Oncology Dietitian, Western Health and Social Care Trust

The Advanced Practitioner Oncology Dietitian team encourage nutritionally vulnerable patients with head, neck and upper gastrointestinal cancer to improve fitness before treatment, which has resulted in reduced hospital admission, more treatment options, improved quality of life, fitness for surgery and ability to recover.

Contact: **Michelle Ruddy**, Macmillan Advanced Practitioner Oncology Dietitian, Western Health and Social Care Trust, michelle.ruddy@westerntrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR MASTERS CLINICAL RESEARCH

Sponsored by the School of Health Sciences, Ulster University



WINNER

Exploring access to community neurorehabilitation for people with progressive neurological conditions

Shona Pryde, Advanced Practitioner Physiotherapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and co-authors **Owen Williams**, **Margaret O'Hare**, **Carolyn Murdock** and **Dr Katy Pedlow**

Multidisciplinary neurorehabilitation is one of the most cost-effective interventions in healthcare, enabling people with progressive neurological conditions, such as Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's, to live an active, fulfilling life. However, neurorehabilitation it is not accessible to everyone who needs it.

This research identified key issues affecting access to community neuro-rehabilitation from the perspective of people with progressive neurological conditions and

suggested person-centred priorities to improve access, with ideas for local service improvement initiatives, and inspiration for wider rehabilitation policy makers.

“...pointing the way to improvements in practice and providing the necessary spark to help other researchers and policy makers understand what good access should look like and how to do it.”

CONTACT: Shona Pryde, Advanced Practitioner Physiotherapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, shona.pryde@belfasttrust.hscni.net



FINALISTS



An Evaluation of a Speech and Language Therapy Swallow Service for Adults with Intellectual Disability

Angela Crocker, Lead Clinical Speech and Language Therapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

This research significantly enhances understanding and management of dysphagia in adults with intellectual disability to benefit patients and healthcare services by identifying common risk factors and effective interventions.

Contact: **Angela Crocker**, Lead Clinical Speech and Language Therapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, angela.crocker@belfasttrust.hscni.net



An Evaluation of the Demographics, Characteristics and Healthcare Utilisation of People with Asthma Referred to an Ambulatory Respiratory Hub

Wesley Henry, Advanced Practitioner Physiotherapist, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

This research has enhanced understanding of key healthcare issues to improve holistic care of people living with progressive neurological conditions, highlighting what good access should look like from their perspective and how it can be implemented..

Contact: **Wesley Henry**, Advanced Practitioner Physiotherapist, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, wesley.henry@setrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Sponsored by Public Health Agency

WINNER

INTERACT project

Claire Hallowell, Complex Case Team Manager and **Aidan McDonnell**, Complex Case Team Paramedic, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, with the collaborative team at the British Red Cross

This collaborative High Intensity User Project with the British Red Cross, which involved 48 frequent service users of the NIAS 999 system, led to a 55.2% reduction in emergency calls, a 66.6% reduction in ambulance responses and a 61% reduction in conveyances to the Emergency Department. The Net Cost & Improvement Savings per annum were estimated at £1.94 million. This project improved the health and wellbeing of this vulnerable cohort of adults, whilst simultaneously improving the overall quality of service provision by minimising strain on emergency resources.

The INTERACT pilot has shown a cost-effective, patient-centric and transferable model of care that improves the lives of service users and reduced demand on emergency services that can be scaled up and implemented across Northern Ireland.

Permanent funding is being sought to enable this work to grow and develop across the region, ensuring that vulnerable adults are getting the help they need to take control of their lives and reconnect with their local communities whilst simultaneously having ubiquitous benefits on all emergency services and the wider health service.

“ This initiative demonstrated outstanding collaboration, innovation and strong leadership to address an entrenched societal issue. ”

CONTACT: Claire Hallowell, Complex Case Team Manager and Aidan McDonnell, Complex Case Team Paramedic, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, claire.hallowell@nias.hscni.net



FINALISTS



Options, advice, knowledge osteoarthritis knee: The OAK programme West Belfast

Arlene Blair, First Contact Physiotherapy Practitioner, West Belfast Federation, and Trudy Matchett, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

The OAK programme (Options, Advice and Knowledge) helps people with knee osteoarthritis to access support for exercise, weight and pain management to self-manage effectively and reduce reliance on medical services where there are long delays.

Contact: **Arlene Blair**, First Contact Physiotherapy Practitioner West Belfast Federation, and **Trudy Matchett**, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Arlene.Blair@belfasttrust.hscni.net



Live well for a longer healthy life

Suzanne Kennedy, Consultant Physiotherapist, Northern Health and Social Care Trust and Nuala Lamont, Senior Practice Manager, Causeway GP Federation

This project showed that small changes can make profound health improvements, reducing risk of obesity-related health conditions, referring patients to a healthy lifestyle programme, encourage behavioural changes with increased physical activity.

Contact: **Suzanne Kennedy**, Consultant Physiotherapist, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, suzanne.kennedy@northerntrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE DELIVERY BY AN AHP OR HEALTHCARE SCIENTIST WORKING OUTSIDE THE NHS

WINNER

Replicating the primary care role

Jamie Scott, Primary Care Paramedic, GP Federation of NI and Lecturer in Paramedic Science, Ulster University

Jamie was the first Advanced Paramedic Practitioner in Primary Care to be employed by the GP Federation in Northern Ireland, and the first to successfully complete independent prescribing for the primary care setting. With no formal training package in place, Jamie was instrumental in designing a safe and effective advanced scope of practice that maximised benefits for patients and helped to stabilise the crisis in primary care in Dungannon at the time. He was also heavily involved in Southern

GP Federation's response to COVID-19, working face-to-face on the front line with COVID positive patients throughout the pandemic.

This pilot project expanded patients' access to care, streamlined service delivery and addressed gaps in the system; with the potential to transform not only frontline service delivery but also building new ways to enhance the workforce.

Jamie now works full time as a lecturer in paramedic science at Ulster University.

CONTACT: Jamie Scott, Primary Care Paramedic GP Federation of NI and Lecturer in Paramedic Science, Ulster University, J.Scott@ulster.ac.uk



FINALIST



Addressing a critical gap in mental health support for children

Louise Kelly and Karen Diamond, Music Therapists, Resilient Rhythms

Resilient Rhythms stands out by addressing a critical gap in mental health support for children. Their whole class workshops empower teachers and children to understand and manage mental health challenges with practical tools and strategies to prevent crisis and foster resilience.

Contact: **Louise Kelly**, Music Therapist, Resilient Rhythms, lkelly25@hotmail.com

“ This initiative has gone above and beyond, delivering high-quality healthcare services and has demonstrated innovation, dedication and a commitment to improving patient outcomes. ”

RISING STARS



Rebecca Johnston

Occupational Therapist, South Eastern, who takes responsibility to drive change – a great source of knowledge and support in implementing Encompass



Alix Robinson

Occupational Therapist, South Eastern, who is acknowledged as a Super Duper Superuser of Encompass, supporting colleagues to gain new skills



Jenny McAlister

Orthoptist, Northern, who has showed remarkable skill, dedication and innovation in promoting the orthoptic service - and is an Encompass Superuser



Caitriona Breen

Dietitian, Western, who ensures goals are met and plays a vital role in training future dietitians – an excellent role model



Aoife Cassidy

Occupational Therapist, Belfast, who quickly adapted to Encompass, leading on staff training across the Trust and devising instruction sheets



Emma McCorkell

Research Paramedic, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, who as the first research paramedic has shown passion and enthusiasm, ensuring production of high-quality results to improve patient outcomes



Naomi Hoffart

Occupational Therapist, Shannon Clinic, Belfast, who is Shannon's superstar using her initiative, creativity and passion for others within a challenging and restrictive environment



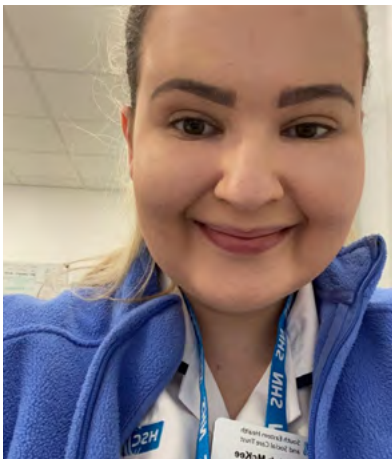
Meabh Morris

Rotational Band 5 Physiotherapist, Belfast, who provides outstanding care in the community and helping to ensure the smooth running of the team as they adapt to new processes



Daniel Deehan

Occupational Therapist, Southern, who has pioneered a fieldwork placement where in works in clinical area while being proactive in research activity



Ashleigh McKee

Occupational Therapist, Reablement team, Belfast, for whom nothing or nobody is a problem – she sees the opportunity to help. And she has recently donated her stem cells to a stranger



Lauren McCartan

Specialist Community Dietitian, South Eastern, who is a passionate advocate for dietetics and has worked on campaigning groups to promote dietitians and healthy eating



Jake Deeney

Band 5 Physiotherapist, Belfast, whose holistic approach impressed patients and colleagues alike – and he immediately grasped the Encompass system



Rebecca Hughes

Specialist Occupational Therapist, Belfast, who works with extremely complex Long Covid patients, instilling hope, motivate and provide just the right challenge during their rehabilitation.

RESERVIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sponsored by 38 (Irish) Brigade



38 (Irish) Brigade &
Northern Ireland Garrison

WINNER

Cpl Scott Mawhinney

HCPC Paramedic, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

Cpl Scott Mawhinney has been an HCPC Paramedic for 14 years working for NIAS, currently employed as a station supervisor, a post he has held for the past 4 years.

Scott joined the Army Reserve in 2021 into 253 (North Irish) Medical Regiment as a Combat Medical Technician and quickly achieved the class 1 status, allowing him to be employed as an Army Paramedic.

He is a regular feature at Regimental Training exercises and despite his relatively short career thus far, is frequently regarded as somewhat of a mentor for his Combat Medical Technician colleagues; he not only has the requisite depth of experience, but also the patience and temperament to ensure that his guidance is eagerly accepted and wholly welcomed.

Cpl Mawhinney is fully active in all aspects of his Reserve Service; he makes himself available for most Regional / Regimental Engagement activities and is a superb ambassador for the Paramedic cadre of the Army Medical Services Reserve, and the wider Army. He has supported Armed Forces Days, Exercise Medical Endeavor, AMS Awareness events and various outreach events such as presentations to trainee Paramedics studying at Ulster University, Derry-Londonderry (Magee) Campus.

Cpl Mawhinney is a force multiplier who brings his extensive civilian paramedic experience to his Army Reserve role at every opportunity: He is friendly, approachable, engaging and respected both professionally and personally by peers, juniors and seniors alike.

FINALIST

Sgt Jackelyn Scott

Senior Haematologist

Sgt Scott trained as joined 204 (NI) Fd Hosp as a Biomedical Scientist. In her civilian role she has worked as a senior haematologist and more recently has moved into the private sector.

Sgt Scott deployed in 2022 on Op Newcombe, a UN supporting mission, as part of a GMSG with 1RI LRRG, in a pivotal role as the biomedical scientist enabling blood transfusion capability to be taken at reach. Within 30 minutes she was able to establish biochemistry capability along with infectious disease diagnosis. Of most significance she had to manage the supply, storage and movements of 30 units of blood despite the challenges of the austere environment which saw her working in temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius and off mains grid for periods up to two weeks. She also prepared for emergency blood donations from SP in the event of massive transfusion requirements. This was a pivotal enabling factor which allowed the long range capability of the Taskgroup.

More recently, following the unit merger Sgt Scott has assumed the role of lead BMS in 210 (NI) MRR and is key to providing training for all personnel involved with handling blood. She provides critical input in the Healthcare Governance arena. Without her skill set the resuscitation and surgical areas of the hospital cannot function effectively.



“Cpl Mawhinney's attitude and willingness to get involved made him stand out above his peer group. As a paramedic he skilfully trained and mentored the more junior CMTs, combining his civilian experience with the recent lessons he learnt from him deployment in Oman.”

ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENT PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sponsored by Ulster University



WINNER

Courtney McCaughley, BSc Hons Paramedic Science student, Ulster University



FINALISTS



Jack O'Hare
BSc Hons Paramedic Science student, Ulster University



Adam Cooper
BSc Hons Paramedic Science student, Ulster University



ULSTER UNIVERSITY OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sponsored by the School of Health Sciences, Ulster University



WINNER

Joanne Dodds, Health Physiology (Respiratory and Sleep)
Ulster University



FINALISTS



Holly Bennett
Diagnostic Radiography, Ulster University



Melissa Miller
Physiotherapy, Ulster University

Health Sciences at Magee.
Educating healthcare practitioners for today and tomorrow.
Be part of it.

Ulster University | Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

THE PATRICIA BLACKBURN AWARD FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION AND ACHIEVEMENT

Sponsored by the HSC Leadership Centre

WINNER

**Patrick McCance,
Manager of Orthoptic Services, Western Health and Social Care Trust**

Patrick McCance Paddy has dedicated himself to Orthoptics for 38 years. His many roles have included Service lead, Chair of the Regional Managers' forum, and education committee representative. He was instrumental in organising Irish branch meetings, and international conferences in both Belfast and Dublin.

In his own service, he has grown and shaped an exceptional team of experienced Orthoptists, but he has also widely impacted Orthoptic services in other trusts by creating flagship models of best practice and encouraging their roll out at a regional level. Working closely with other eye professionals, Paddy pioneered extended scope practice for Orthoptists in Northern Ireland becoming an integral part of the ophthalmology team and ensuring Orthoptic representation at every level.

As a mentor and coach, Paddy has encouraged and championed staff and colleagues to fulfil their own career ambitions. Paddy has often taken a back seat when awards have been celebrated but has always been recognised as the true driving force behind many achievements. He motivates others to stand on regional and national platforms to guide the future of the orthoptic profession and has paved the way for others to follow. Through his inspiring leadership he has continued to help advance and secure the orthoptic profession in Northern Ireland for the future.



AWARD FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE THE AHP COMMUNITY WHO HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF AHPS

WINNER

Denise Nixon,
Post registration education commissioning coordinator for nursing and midwifery and AHP, Department of Health

In her years of service within the Department of Health, Denise has forged strong relationships across the health and social care system, higher education institutions and a wide range of organisations. A tireless advocate for the professions she serves, Denise champions the benefits of the workforce to the wider health and social care system both regionally and nationally.

She has been pivotal in driving professional excellence ensuring access to high quality education, utilising the latest evidence based practices for allied health professionals, coordinating education that promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and is responsive to emerging health care trends, ultimately ensuring patients benefit from the latest and most effective interventions within the region.

Denise has demonstrated unwavering dedication, innovative thinking and outstanding leadership in her role. Her impact upon the professional growth and development of allied health professions and the broader healthcare community within Northern Ireland is profound and will ensure that future generations of allied health professionals will continue to benefit from robust and comprehensive training opportunities. Denise's commitment to excellence and ensuring the highest standards of education will inspire ongoing efforts to achieve and maintain the highest levels of professional practice.

CONTACT: Denise Nixon, Post Registration Education Commissioning Coordinator for Nursing & Midwifery and AHP, Department of Health, denise.nixon@health-ni.gov.uk



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR JUDGES

Tomas Adell

Department of Health Northern Ireland

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Department of Health Northern Ireland

Denise Killough

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Tracey McIvor

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Joanne Casey

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Jill Bradley

Northern Health and Social Care Trust



Chamberlain Dunn Events

The Old Candlemakers, West Street, Lewes BN7 2NZ

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

www.chamberlaidunn.com

