



Dame Professor Sue Hill, chief scientific officer, NHS England

Steve Jamieson, CEO, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Launching our 2025 UK Awards

Our relaunch has enabled us to invest more in doing what we set out to do – promoting and explaining the contribution of healthcare scientists and allied health professionals to innovative, high quality patient care, reducing waiting times and encouraging rehabilitation and healthy living.

At a time when the NHS and social care services in all four countries are determined to reform and regroup to deliver for all communities, we are so well placed to make explicit how these professionals and specialists can contribute to this urgent healthcare agenda.

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This issue of The Link launches the 2025 Advancing Healthcare Awards. This is a special year for us as, to celebrate our 20th anniversary, we have boosted the Awards with new themes, more supporters and, most important, new sponsors.

We also report on the highlights of the Advancing Healthcare awards NI, a remarkable evening which focused on showing the impact on health and social care that AHPs and healthcare scientists are making.

Advancing Healthcare Awards 2025

Closing date:

Friday 14 February

Judging day:

Monday 31 March

Awards lunch and ceremony:

Friday 23 May

Venue:

Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, London

In this special issue:

- Introducing our Awards for 2025
- Meet our sponsors and supporters
- Celebrating our 20th anniversary
- Highlights from the Advancing Healthcare
- Awards Northern Ireland
- How to write a winning entry

Dame Professor Sue Hill, chief scientific officer, NHS England has a clear view of how the Awards can help raise the profile of healthcare scientists:

“These Awards have come a long way over the past 20 years and I am committed to work with Chamberlain Dunn and other professional leaders to further develop these awards to enable us to shine a brighter light on the critical role of healthcare scientists and AHPs in the health and care system.”

We invited Steve Jamieson, CEO, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists who has also been helping us to revamp the Awards, to tell us how he sees it:

“Recognising AHPs with awards is more than just a personal achievement — it’s a celebration of their unwavering commitment to care, research, and innovation. These awards uplift the individuals and their organisations, fostering a culture of excellence that inspires teams and strengthens patient outcomes. Each award is a testament to their dedication, serving as a beacon of hope for patients

and a reminder that their work has a lasting impact on lives and communities.”

A special welcome to the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy as sponsors of an important new award: The #RightToRehab award for innovation, linked with their Right To Rehab campaign which believes that rehabilitation should be accessible to everyone who needs it for as long as they need it.

John Cowman, CSP chief executive, says: “Innovation in rehab services is driving huge improvements in person-centred care across the country so we are delighted to be supporting this award.

It’s critical that these examples of best practice are scaled up and replicated everywhere so that everyone who needs it can access high-quality rehab. It’s only through that scaling up that we can help more people lead active, independent lives while easing pressures on the NHS and wider economy.”

CATEGORY SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



SPECIAL SUPPORTERS



PROGRAMME SUPPORTERS





Open for entries

We are delighted to invite entries to the 2025 Advancing Healthcare Awards as we celebrate 20 years of this important programme, promoting the work of AHPs and healthcare scientists. These professional groups are leaders of innovation and are well placed to respond to new opportunities and challenges. The Advancing Healthcare Awards is an annual event that celebrates best practice, innovation, impact and leadership.

Have a look at the categories and see where your project might fit. You can be working in any setting in the UK, the NHS, charity, private sector or self-employed. We are particularly keen to encourage people from a wide range of diverse backgrounds to enter the awards.

The Awards aim to:

- Identify and share examples of good, impactful practice throughout the four countries of the UK, which are evidence-based, sustainable and transferable
- Help AHPs and healthcare scientists communicate their key role in health and social care to their various audiences
- Develop the awards programme in reach and stature, reflecting the crucial contribution of AHPs and healthcare scientists in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation
- To meet the expectations of the sponsoring and supporting organisations.

We set out the Awards here to give you some idea of the range and scope. For full details and entry details go to the website.

At least one team member in your entry should be an AHP or healthcare scientist (except for categories which specifically include support workers). You can enter as many projects as you like across the categories, but each particular project can only be entered into one category.

Entries must be submitted online via the portal – go to www.AHAwards.co.uk/uk and follow the **ENTER NOW** links

The closing date for the awards is **Friday 14 February 2025**.

AWARDS OPEN TO BOTH AHPs AND HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS

- 1 Welsh Government's award for delivering multiprofessional community services
- 2 The award for outstanding achievement by an apprentice, support worker or nonregistered technician in an AHP or healthcare science service
- 3 The Rising Star award
- 4 Award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry, supported by the Health Innovation Network
- 5 Award for Creative and Innovative Practice
- 6 Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science workforce
- 7 Award for campaigning with power and impact, supported by PH Affairs

AWARDS OPEN TO AHPs

- 8 The BAPO award for evidencing impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics, sponsored by the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists
- 9 The #RightToRehab award for innovation, supported by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- 10 Northern Ireland Government's award for clinical impact to address healthcare inequalities

AWARDS OPEN TO HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS

- 11 The NHS England Chief Scientific Officer's Award for the Outstanding Healthcare Science Service of the year
- 12 Biomedical Scientist of the Year award, sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science
- 13 The Lightbulb Moment: The award for driving forward patient safety, sponsored by The Academy for Healthcare Science
- 14 My inspiration: the AHCS Award for the most inspiring leader, sponsored by the Academy for Healthcare Science

1 Welsh Government's award for delivering multiprofessional community services



This award is looking for innovation that increases community-based services, prevents unnecessary hospital admissions and/or enables people in hospital in home to return home safely and quickly.

Criteria

- Evidence of increased multi-professional working that delivers better outcomes for people, carers and their families
- Evidence of a 'shift left', i.e. delivering a greater proportion of care outside of hospital
- Explicit evidence of improved outcomes and better use of resources in one or more of the following:
 - Diagnostic and assessment provision in localities
 - Early intervention and prevention
 - Step-up or step-down care to prevent admission and/or reduce length of hospital stay
- Measurable impact data (both quantitative and qualitative), e.g. impact on hospital admissions/discharges, including cost effectiveness
- Evidence that this innovation was developed in line with sustainability principles and that there has been consideration for its long-term implementation

2 The award for outstanding achievement by an apprentice, support worker or non-registered technician in an AHP or healthcare science service

This award is open to apprentices, support workers, assistants or non-registered technicians working with allied health professionals or in healthcare science services. We want to celebrate the positive contribution that support roles make to patient outcomes and the teams they work in.

Have you changed how you do things and has this made a difference to the quality of life of your patients? Have you implemented a sustainable change that has made an impact in your team? Or perhaps this describes someone in your team? Nominations are welcomed from the individual, their team or by a patient, service-user or carer.

Criteria

- innovation and/or consistent record of high-quality service delivery
- impact on patient care
- team working and using their own initiative
- expected benefits including improved quality of life
- sustainability and transferability.

3 The Rising Star Award

For this award we are inviting you to nominate a colleague or member of staff who has shown a level of initiative, skill and commitment that is truly exceptional. You may nominate anyone who has been working as a qualified allied health professional or healthcare scientist for less than five years, and who you and others recognise as a star in the making.

Criteria

This is an open award with no rigid criteria, so tell us their story. We are looking for people who stand out from the crowd and have already shown courage in meeting professional or personal challenges, displaying determination, creativity, intelligence and bravery; people who have continued to develop their skills and evidence-based practice since qualifying and flourished in whatever setting they have found themselves.

4 Award for the best collaboration across clinical, academia and industry *Supported by the Health Innovation Network*



This award aims to celebrate effective collaborative working across clinical settings, the academic world and industry to develop new services or streamline existing processes for the benefit of patient care. We are looking for outstanding projects or initiatives covering clinical and industry, or clinical and academic, or all three sectors; projects that demonstrate partnership working, bringing into play the perspectives, expertise and skills that the different sectors can offer.

It is open to healthcare scientists and AHPs working in any setting in the UK

Criteria

- Effective collaboration across service providers, universities and industry to create new ways of working
- Benefits for service users, services and organisations including cost effectiveness
- Sustainability and transferability
- Leadership and team working
- Evidence of service user involvement.

5 Award for creative and innovative practice

This award aims to attract entries from AHPs and healthcare scientists who have put fresh partnerships and alliances together to tackle new or longstanding problems in creative ways to make a real, sustainable impact on service-users and patient care in any setting.

Criteria

- benefits to service users and services, including cost effectiveness

- tackling new or longstanding challenges with evidence-based solutions
- leadership, team working and partnership-building
- evidence of service user involvement
- sustainability and transferability.

6 Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science workforce

This new award aims to capture and disseminate the huge determination and creativity behind recent initiatives to develop and expand the AHP and healthcare science workforce. It has needed joined-up thinking and planning, clever local profession-specific ideas and use of a range of dissemination routes. This is a broad topic which encompasses education, training, recruitment, retention, diversity, apprenticeships, development of support workers, career pathways, advanced clinical practice and new ways of working.

Criteria

- understanding of the UK-wide situation and how it relates nationally, regionally and locally
- a systems approach to create a coherent, deliverable strategy
- effective partnerships, alliances and media activity
- evidence of sustainable and transferable success
- key messages for others wishing to take up your ideas.

7 Award for campaigning with power and impact

Supported by PH Affairs



This new award is to recognise the skill and success of healthcare organisations in campaigning for causes to encourage healthy living, highlight shortcomings in health provision, reduce inequalities and/or promote the unique contribution of AHPs and healthcare scientists.

Criteria

- clearly defined aims and plans
- effective partnership building
- creative use of campaign materials and social media
- awareness of the broader political agenda and the healthcare landscape
- evidence of impact and continuing influence.

AWARDS OPEN TO AHPs

8 The BAPO award for evidencing impact and excellence in prosthetics and orthotics

Sponsored by the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists



For this award we are looking for projects or services that evidence impact and excellence in prosthetics and

orthotics, making a measurable difference to patient outcomes, demonstrating service-user involvement and creative and effective use of resources.

Criteria

- making a measurable difference to patient outcomes
- sustainability and transferability
- leadership and team working
- creative and effective use of resources to deliver impact
- service-user involvement.

9 The #RightToRehab award for innovation

Supported by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy



The Right To Rehab campaign believes that rehabilitation should be accessible to everyone who needs it for as long as they need it. For people with long-term conditions, it enhances their quality of life. For those recovering from illness or injury, it helps them rebuild. This new award supports the campaign and is looking for services that are committed to delivering patient-centred rehabilitation closer to home by a multi-disciplinary team.

Criteria

Please provide evidence to show that that your service delivers on the following criteria:

- Care is built around the needs and goals of the patient
- It improves access for areas or populations that experienced barriers previously
- It is scalable
- It provides care closer to home
- It is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team that includes physiotherapy and has AHP leadership, ensuring the person sees the right professional at the right time
- It has measurable outcomes.

10 Northern Ireland Government's award for clinical impact to address healthcare inequalities



This award recognises outstanding contributions toward reducing healthcare inequalities by improving access, quality and outcomes. We are looking for initiatives that cut across sectors and agencies that demonstrate clinical impact to address social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic status, housing, education and access to preventative care, laying the ground for sustainable changes within the healthcare system, ensuring the population regardless of background or circumstance can achieve optimal health.

Criteria

- leadership and partnership working
- clinical impact
- sustainability and scalability
- value for money.

AWARDS OPEN TO HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS

11 The NHS England Chief Scientific Officer's Award for the Outstanding Healthcare Science Service of the year



This award invites entries from healthcare science service providers operating in any setting. The judges will be looking for outstanding service provision that has scientific and technological advancements at its core and demonstrates a positive impact for patients, families and clinical teams; delivers innovation in models of care or delivery; supports a high achieving workforce to deliver high quality services and has continuous improvement and sustainability at the centre.

It is open to healthcare scientists working in any setting in the UK.

Criteria

- Positive impact for patients, families and clinical service users and service quality improvement
- Embraces scientific and technological advances
- Innovation in models of delivery or service transformation
- Effective business planning, financial viability and effectiveness
- High quality service provision to support clinical care
- Motivated healthcare science workforce inclusive of demonstrating opportunities for career development to support service delivery
- Sustainability and transferability
- Leadership and team working.

12 Biomedical Scientist of the Year award



Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science

The IBMS Biomedical Scientist of the Year award celebrates an exceptional biomedical scientist who has advanced practice in an innovative and impactful way, making a real difference to patients' lives and inspiring those around them. Nominations can be for yourself or a colleague.

Criteria

Nominees must be a HCPC registered biomedical scientist practising within the UK and show evidence of:

- measurable achievements
- leadership and team working
- impact on patient care.

13 The lightbulb moment: The award for driving forward patient safety



Sponsored by The Academy for Healthcare Science

This award aims to attract entries and nominations from healthcare scientists, clinical research practitioners and life science industry representatives who had a 'lightbulb moment' those who can describe how they brought into play innovative approaches to long-standing problems or found unconventional solutions to unexpected challenges. Or through registration and regulation they can show how this enhanced patient safety and how it inspired others.

It is open to healthcare scientists, CRPs and LSI representatives working in any setting in the UK.

Criteria

- Enhanced patient safety
- Benefits for service users, services and organisations including cost effectiveness
- Sustainability and transferability
- Leadership and team working
- Evidence of service user involvement.

14 My inspiration: the AHCS award for the most inspiring leader



Sponsored by The Academy for Healthcare Science

Who inspired you to be the best that you can be? We are inviting you to nominate a healthcare science leader who has been an inspiration to you at any stage of your career. To make a nomination you must be a registrant on a part of the AHCS register, or on one of our directories, or who has successfully been through equivalence, or who is an associate or fellow of the Academy.

Criteria

This is an open award with no rigid criteria, so tell us your story and the part this person played in it. It could be the inspiration to seek a career in healthcare science, or as a Clinical Research Practitioner or in the Life Science Industry. They may have helped you to seek a particular qualification or apply for a specific post or become involved in an ambitious project. It could be the person who got you moving again after you felt stuck in your career, or someone who helped you through a difficult period of your life.

How to reach the shortlist: ten top tips

Over the years, the Chamberlain Dunn team have seen thousands of awards entries and watched hundreds of judges at work. Here we pass on a few good ideas to help ensure that your entry gets noticed and you make it to the final judging.

1 Choose your **project with care**. It may be too early to go with the project that is currently engaging you. An older, more established one might have fuller evaluation and proof of sustainability.

2 **Which category?** The general categories attract the most entries so have a look carefully at the more specific awards to see if your work might fit. You will have a better chance of being shortlisted.

3 **Involve the whole team**. The judges love multidisciplinary working, clever partnerships, and unusual alliances. It shows you are aware of the bigger picture.

4 With the team, **do a timeline** of what needs to be done by when so everyone can have their say, you avoid the last-minute panic and have time for a final check.

5 Spend time on your 50-word **summary, as it could be used to illustrate the person or project, in the Winners' Guide**. It's first on the list and vitally important but write it last so that you can make every word work and spell out precisely the impact you made.

6 Polish up **the title**, brief enough to work as a title, but long enough to capture what your project is all about and attract interest.

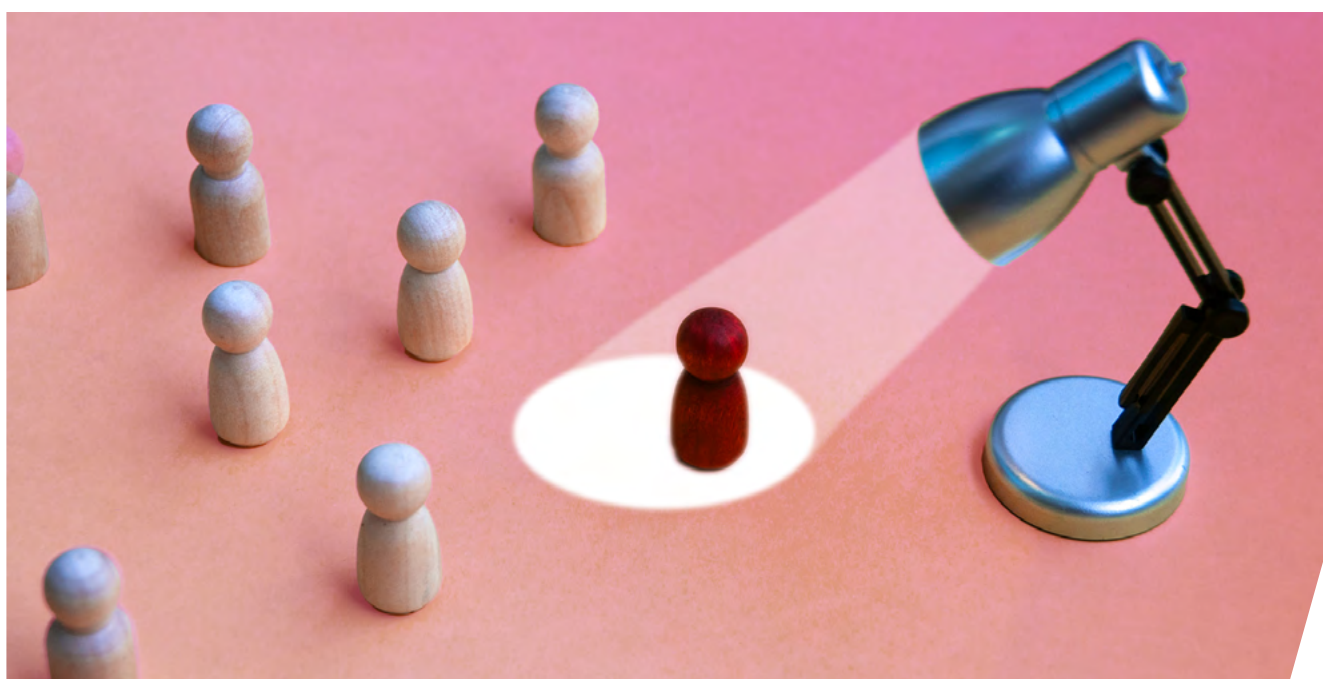
7 Answer each **question** making explicit how you meet **the criteria**. Stick to word counts. Remember the judges have a big job to do – make it as easy as possible for them.

8 Tell a **good story**, avoid jargon, explain abbreviations, use simple, precise language. Draft and redraft, let others read and critique it.

9 Don't be afraid to **admit mistakes**, include lessons learnt, and advice to others wanting to adopt the project.

10 **Think impact**. Define precisely how your project has changed the world with, in particular, its impact on resources. Be sure to include evidence and metrics in a clear and precise way.

If you would like to know more about how to do it, [click here](#) for our guide to How to create a winning entry.



Looking back as we look forward

To refresh our memories we went to the photo archives to see what we could find from the past 20 years – or at least the later years.

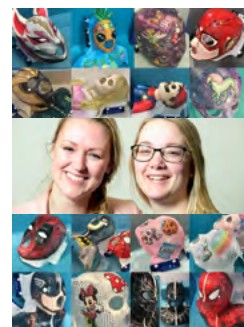
Our Special guests including Paralympian and 7/7 survivor Martine Wright, media executive Greg Dyke, BBC correspondent Fergus Walsh.

Our longstanding supporters – Professor Dame Sue Hill, HR expert David Amos, and Grahame Pope who was there right at the start when he was chair of the AHP Federation.

Winner Malcolm Robinson who created Harvey’s Gang to help young patients understand their treatment.

In the Covid years we went virtual and also ran the Esteem awards to recognise the heroic work of AHPs and healthcare scientists during the pandemic.

And to see us back to a live ceremony, we welcomed the Blue Light Orchestra and the amazing Seb Valentine.





Making health & social care greener





*Michelle Tennyson, Minister Nesbitt
and Professor Ian Young*

Celebrating AHPs and healthcare scientists in Northern Ireland



This year's Advancing Healthcare Awards ceremony was attended by over 300 guests at the Stormont Hotel in Belfast. Our guest of honour was the Lord Lieutenant Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle and the guest speaker was Minister of Health, Mike Nesbit.

Full details of the finalists and how to contact them will be published shortly in the Winners' Guide, but meanwhile here are some highlights.

Winning in the FAST lane



The FAST team with IPEM's Adam Hounsell and host Ann Keen

This year's overall winner was the FAST clinic team at the Northern Ireland Cancer Care Centre.

The judges chose this because of the dramatic impact it has had on service delivery. It means patients can have advanced image guided radiotherapy techniques through prostate cancer clinical trials, reducing radiotherapy from 39 treatments to five, saving 134 hours of radiotherapy and enabling more patients to be treated faster.

As Adam Hounsell, from the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine who sponsored the Award, put it: 'Looking for impact? This innovative clinic has it. It shows collaboration at its most powerful to completely transform the patient experience and enabling far more patients to be treated much faster.'

And they had the cleverest mnemonic of the year: **ADVOCATE** - **ADV**ancing radi**OTH**erapy **teCH**niques as **A TE**am for Prostate Patients.

Paramedics celebrate success



It was the Year of the Paramedics – no fewer than five winners, a Rising Star and one finalist.

And they were there in force to celebrate.

They won the Award for Partnership Working in Public Health for their High Intensity User Project with the British Red Cross which is likely to save nearly £2 million a year.

Paul Corns, NIAS, won the Award for Creative and Innovation with their reimagined master class to increase confidence in CPR performance to save more lives.

Jamie Scott, Primary Care Paramedic, GP Federation of NI and Lecturer of Paramedic Science, Ulster University won the Award for those working outside the NHS for his work in expanding patients access to care

Reservist of the Year, sponsored by 38 Irish Brigade, was won by Cpl Scott Mawhinney, NIAS paramedic – see opposite for more details.

Paramedic Undergraduate of the Year, sponsored by Ulster University, was won by Courtney McCaughley

Rising star Emma McCorkell is NIAS's first research paramedic.

Finalist in the service improvement category, sponsored by the Clinical Education Centre, is Karl Bloomer, consultant paramedic, for the integrated clinical hub which directs 999 callers to the most appropriate care.

Orthoptist wins prestigious award



Diane Taylor, Leadership Centre, presents the trophy to Patrick McCance.

Patrick McCance is the winner of this year's Patricia Blackburn Award, sponsored by the Leadership Centre. He is manager of Orthoptic Service, Western Health and Social Care Trust and has been dedicated to orthoptics for 38 years. He led the way in developing orthoptic services in stroke, glaucoma, special schools and adult disability centres. Within his own service he has grown and shaped an exceptional team of experienced orthoptists but also widely impacting orthoptic services in other trusts by creating flagship models of best practice.

This important award is in memory of Patricia Blackburn who was an orthoptist, an AHP commissioner in the legacy Southern Board and the Chief AHP Officer in the Department of Health.

Special Recognition for Denise Nixon



Denise holds the special trophy, created by art therapist Suzanne MacKenzie (second from left) while DoH colleagues Alison Keys and Michelle Tennyson join the celebration.

A new award for those outside the AHP community who have made a substantial contribution to the work of AHPs is Denise Nixon, Post Registration Education Commissioning Co-Ordinator, Department of Health. She was presented with a special trophy created by art therapist Suzanne MacKenzie.

Suzanne said: 'Her impact on the professional growth and development of AHPs and the broader healthcare community within Northern Ireland is

profound and will ensure that future generations of AHPs will continue to benefit from robust and comprehensive training opportunities.'

Paramedic wins Reservist of the Year

Cpl Scott Mawhinney won the Reservist of the Year award, sponsored by the 38 Irish Brigade. He has been a paramedic for 14 years and is currently employed as a station supervisor for the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, a post he has held for the past 4 years.

Scot 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, frequently regarded as 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 and 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.

He 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.



From left to right Professor Mark Taylor, the Lord Lieutenant, Cpl Scott Mawhinney, Col Christopher Clarke.

Across all of our Advancing Healthcare Awards programmes
our sponsors and supporters include



Join us as a sponsor or supporter

Our ambitious plans for the UK Awards in 2025 offer a far wider range of benefits to our sponsors and supporters. The awards have launched but there is still time to get involved as a sponsor or supporter. Sponsors have their own branded table at the awards lunch, involvement in the judging, the opportunity to include news in The Link, and of course, intensive social media activity during the promotional period and beyond. And watch out for news of the 2025 Advancing Healthcare Awards for Wales and Northern Ireland.

Contact ali@chamberdunn.co.uk

Sign up



To sign up to receive The Link, go to

www.ahawards.co.uk/the-link/

Sign up for the WhatsApp group here



The Link is published 6 times a year by Chamberlain Dunn, the organisers of the Advancing Healthcare Awards.

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