



CYMRU  
**ADVANCING  
HEALTHCARE  
AWARDS 2026**

# ENTRY GUIDE

Please go to [www.ahawards.co.uk/cymru/](http://www.ahawards.co.uk/cymru/) to register to enter and submit your entry on-line. The submission deadline is Wednesday 8 July 2026.

## CATEGORY SPONSORS



## SPECIAL SUPPORTERS



## KEY DATES

### CLOSING DATE:

Wednesday 8 July 2026

### JUDGING PANELS (VIRTUAL):

W/c 7 September 2026

### AWARDS CEREMONY:

Thursday 15 October,  
Cardiff Marriott Hotel

## **We are delighted to invite entries to the 2026 Advancing Healthcare Awards Cymru, celebrating and promoting the work of AHPs, healthcare scientists and those who work alongside them in support roles across Wales.**

Have a look at the categories and see where your project might fit. You can be working in any setting in Wales, 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 Wales, 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.

Criteria and submission statements are listed here so that you can see what is required and to allow you to prepare your entries offline.

### **Please note:**

- The award categories are open to both healthcare scientists and allied health professionals unless specified.
- At least one team member in your entry should be an AHP or healthcare scientist (except for the Rising Star category which can include support workers)
- You may submit an entry or nominate a colleague/team
- 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 website forms – go to [www.ahawards.co.uk/cymru/](http://www.ahawards.co.uk/cymru/) and follow the ENTER NOW links.

The closing date for the awards is **Wednesday 8 July 2026**

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Category 1

## AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

*Sponsored by Welsh Government*



Category 2

## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DIAGNOSTICS

*Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science*



Category 3

## AWARD FOR NEW WAYS OF WORKING

Category 4

## AWARD FOR DEVELOPING THE AHP AND HEALTHCARE SCIENCE PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE

*Sponsored by Health Education and Improvement Wales*



Category 5

## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CANCER CARE

*Sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support*



Category 6

## AWARD FOR DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

*Sponsored by Digital Health and Care Wales*



Category 7

## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN REHABILITATION

*Sponsored by the AHP Federation Cymru*



Category 8

## RISING STAR AWARD

## OVERALL WINNER

*Chosen from the winners of each category and cannot be entered directly.*

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## Award for outstanding leadership

*Sponsored by Welsh Government*

A culture of high quality, continually improving, compassionate care and support must be underpinned by a new approach to collective and system leadership. A continuous learning culture and strong team working both within and across traditional healthcare boundaries is crucial to ensuring we deliver the best outcomes for our population of Wales.

This award is for leaders in the allied health professions and healthcare science at all levels who can demonstrate how they developed and used their skills to benefit our patients, clients and carers

### Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Leadership and partnership working
- The impact of leadership initiatives
- Commitment and resilience
- Impact of effective clinical leadership on enhancing quality of patient care and sound evaluation.

### Submission questions

- 1 Summarise the individual(or team's) leadership vision and its impact on improving patient care (50 words)
- 2 Now provide a fuller description of the work and supporting evidence with reference to the above criteria - include any metrics or testimonials if appropriate (200 words)
- 3 How does the individual (or team) demonstrate effective clinical leadership skills and engagement of relevant stakeholders and partners? (200 words)
- 4 Describe the challenges faced - how has this individual (or team) shown resilience and what creative solutions have they applied (100 words).

## Award for excellence in diagnostics\*

*Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science*

Diagnostics are central to helping people live longer, healthier lives. Increasing diagnostic capacity, supporting innovation and developing new partnerships can reduce service pressures, improve access, support earlier intervention and lead to better patient outcomes.

This award recognises individuals or teams who have introduced innovative approaches to enhance diagnostic services. Entries should demonstrate measurable improvements in service delivery, quality or outcomes. Nominations are open to healthcare scientists and may be submitted directly or on behalf of colleagues.

*\* open to healthcare scientists*

### Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Impact, innovation or transformation to maximise effective diagnostic provision
- Robust evaluation of service
- Working to maximise access and timeliness of provision and services.

### Submission statements

- 1 Summarise your project and its significance (50 words)
- 2 Summary statement to explain the project or service and any partners you are working with (75 words)
- 3 Describe how this innovation has improved diagnostic services (200 words)
- 4 Outline the service outcomes, impact and benefits to maximise effective diagnostic provision and patient impact (200 words)
- 5 What are the key messages to others wishing to do something similar? (75 words).

## Award for new ways of working

Healthcare scientists and allied healthcare professionals continually develop adapt to new ways of working to provide safer and more effective services for the people of Wales. This award seeks to recognise sustainable transformation to deliver care in line with the vision of A Healthier Wales, our long-term plan for integrated health and social care.

### Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Innovative ideas that have led to new or transformed ways of working in the health and care system
- Ideas that have the potential to be scaled up and implemented across Wales
- Transformed services that will assist with the stabilisation and reconstruction of the health and care system in Wales.

### Submission questions

- 1 Summarise your project and its significance (50 words)
- 2 How your/their approach has improved an essential service (200 words)
- 3 What is innovative in your/their approach? (100 words)
- 4 How are you/they seeking to embed change for the longer term? (100 words)
- 5 How you/they are a role model and inspiration to others (100 words)

## Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science professions workforce

*Sponsored by Health Education and Improvement Wales*

This award aims to capture and share the drive and creativity behind recent initiatives to transform the AHP and healthcare science professions workforce. These initiatives will demonstrate innovative thinking and collaborative working across professional and/or organisational boundaries.

Entries could include examples of new education and training models, recruitment and retention initiatives, diversity and widening access, development of innovative workforce solutions and new ways of working across all levels of practice.

### Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- understanding of the situation in Wales locally, regionally and nationally
- how the initiative has met workforce challenges in your own profession and/or in others, such as recruitment, retention, diversity, widening access, new workforce solutions or new ways of working within Wales
- effective partnerships and alliances to create solutions that are transferrable across Wales
- evidence of impactful and sustainable success
- clear messages for others wishing to take up your ideas either within your profession or in other professions.

### Submission statements

- 1 Summarise your initiative and its impact in 50 words.
- 2 Now provide a fuller description of your strategy, activities and the context. (200 words)
- 3 What partnerships and alliances did you forge? (200 words)
- 4 What have you achieved and how is it transferable and scalable? (100 words)
- 5 What is the impact on the workforce, and on communities and service-users? (100 words)
- 6 What are your key messages? (50 words)

## Award for excellence in cancer care

*Sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support*

This award aims to highlight outstanding practice in cancer services. These can be new initiatives which are already showing beneficial outcomes or more longstanding projects that have been thoroughly evaluated, and which could be adopted elsewhere. It is open to AHPs and healthcare scientists working in any setting in Wales.

### Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Evidence of impact must include how the views of service users (including their family, carers and so on) as well as other professionals, commissioners/ funders and /or service managers impacted your project
- Working alongside service users in the development of your project or service
- Partnership working that clearly shows effective communication and improved holistic input
- Alignment to at least one of Macmillan's core strategic objectives :
  - Reaching everyone – whilst focusing on those who need the most support
  - Reduce health inequities within cancer treatment and care
  - Support those with cancer and other long-term conditions
  - Reduce variation in cancer treatment and care
- Clear return on investment and value for money, and any other benefits to overall health, education and social care
- Potential for wider implementation and benefits for many others.

### Submission statements

- 1 Describe your project and its impact (50 words)
- 2 Describe how you developed the project, through co-production with service users, professional colleagues (both specialist cancer and generalist teams), and wider stakeholders (200 words)
- 3 Outline how your project is successful in the engagement of relevant stakeholders and how service users are involved in the ongoing management and evaluation of the work (100 words)
- 4 Outline the impact of the project and proof of successful outcomes including feedback from any of the stakeholders (200 words)

## Award for digital and technology innovation

*Sponsored by Digital Health and Care Wales*

This award is open to healthcare scientists and allied health professionals (individuals or teams) who can demonstrate excellence in the way they have used technology to transform service delivery to improve quality, efficiency, people's experiences as well as supporting more integrated care, improving people's health and well-being. This award is open to both patient-facing services, and those supporting the interventions of others. The scope includes use of digital and technology for communications, diagnostics, interventions and interpretation/management of data for clinical benefit. This award can either be self-nominated or you can nominate a colleague or member of their team.

### Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Successful implementation and roll out of a digital/technological system or service
- Co-production with service users engaged in development (other services or patients/ carers)
- Evaluation of benefits/ service improvements
- Efforts to maximise equity (when relevant)
- Plans to further build on this innovation to offer continual improvement.

### Submission statements

- 1 Summarise your innovation and its significance (in 50 words)
- 2 Expand on your innovative intervention, including its target population and aims, implementation and rollout (200 words)
- 3 Describe how you have engaged with service users (patients, carers or clinicians) in order to understand their needs (100 words)
- 4 Outline the outcomes and benefits of your intervention, including cost effectiveness (200 words)
- 5 What are your plans to build on this innovation and to offer continual improvement (100 words)

## Award for excellence in rehabilitation\*

*Sponsored by the AHP Federation Cymru*

Empowering people to live well with supported self-management and high-quality active rehabilitation in their home and community is everyone's business. Good rehabilitation requires a biopsychosocial approach to enable people to remain as independent as possible and support them towards recovery so that they can participate in meaningful life roles, including education and work. This award celebrates teams who have embraced integrated working, breaking down traditional organisational structures and boundaries and new ways of working to deliver truly person-centred, co-produced rehabilitation that has a measurable impact on the health and well being of their service users.

*\* open to AHPs*

### Criteria

The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Integrated ways of working
- Working across (internal and external) organisational structures and boundaries
- Innovative practice and/or innovative use of technology
- Coproduction with service users
- Robust service evaluation.

### Submission questions

- 1 Summarise your rehabilitation intervention, its target population and aims (100 words)
- 2 Describe how you have engaged with the population group in order to understand their needs (50 words)
- 3 Describe how you have adapted to work in a more integrated way, work across organisational structures and boundaries and/or used technology (200 words)
- 4 Outline the outcomes and benefits, including cost effectiveness (200 words)
- 5 What are the key messages to others wishing to do something similar? (100 words)

## 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 you and others recognise as a star in the making and has been working as a qualified allied health professional or healthcare scientist for less than five years or as an apprentice, support worker, assistant or associate practitioner working with allied health professionals or in healthcare science services for less than five years.

### 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.

### Submission questions

- 1 Summarise why this person stands out from the crowd in 50 words
- 2 Have there been any personal or professional challenges that they have faced? (100 words)
- 3 In what specific ways has this person matured professionally? (50 words)
- 4 What do colleagues, managers and patients say about them? (50 words)
- 5 How does this person show promise for the future? (50 words)

## Overall winner

The overall winner is chosen from among the winners of the main categories.

[www.ahawards.co.uk](http://www.ahawards.co.uk)



### Award organisers:

Chamberlain Dunn is an award-winning events company which, for the past 30 years, has helped public, voluntary and charitable sector organisations reach their key audiences to deliver strong and effective messages. We work with you to deliver outstanding events, campaigns and publications.

We plan and deliver campaigns that encompass branding, logos, marketing materials, media and social media activity, and events of all kinds – live, virtual or hybrid. Our awards programmes include the Advancing Healthcare Awards for AHPs and healthcare scientists, HPMA Excellence in People Awards, Social Prescribing Network Awards, Innovation awards for the UK Public Health Register and staff recognition awards for clients in the public and charity sectors.