

ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND 2026



THE SHORTLIST



Award for service improvement

Sponsored by HSC Clinical Education Business Services Organisation

Person-Centered Care for (Musculoskeletal) MSK Services through Community Appointment Days

Eilis McGarvey, Musculoskeletal Lead Physiotherapist, Nikki Scott and Reuben McIlrath, Clinical Team Leads and Temporary Project Leads, and Allie Cameron, Principal Physiotherapist, MSK Services, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Advanced Paramedic Critical Care Rapid Response Vehicle

Glenn O'Rorke, Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) Lead Paramedic and the Advanced Paramedic Critical Care team, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

Food first approach for care home residents with dysphagia: Impacts on service users, costs and environment

Fiona Hillen, Clinical Specialist Dysphagia Dietitian and Elizabeth McKnight, Head of Nutrition and Dietetics, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Sleep talking on Facebook: Enhancing support for CPAP patients by building an amazing online community

Niall Hugh Totten, Senior Chief Sleep Healthcare Scientist, Clare McMahon, Chief Sleep Healthcare Scientist, Shona O'Hara and Lauren Hawthorne, Sleep Healthcare Scientists, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

New Pharmacogenomic (PGx) testing service, Precision Diagnostic Laboratory

Mark Watson, Scientific Lab Manager and the Precision Diagnostic Laboratory Team, Western Health and Social Care Trust

Early Respiratory Diagnostics Project - Armagh & Dungannon GP federation

Melissa Traynor, Lead Respiratory Physiologist and Lauren Smith, Clinical Physiology Manager, Armagh & Dungannon GP Federation and Dr Deirdre Cleary, General Practitioner, Moy Medical Centre



Award for outstanding leadership

Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science

Circle of safety: Seamless traceability of reprocessed medical devices

Brian Boyd, Head of Decontamination Services and Healthcare Scientist, and the team, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

An Inspiring Lifetime Commitment to Excellence in Neurophysiology Through Compassion, Innovation, and Transformational Patient Care

Brenda McManus, Chartered Scientist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Healing the Healers

Diane Keys, Occupational Therapist Advanced Practitioner Level 2, and Rebecca Hughes, Band 6 Occupational Therapist, and the Post-Covid team within Occupational Health, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Blossoms at Larne Lough and NHS Charities Together

Transformational Regional Leadership Driving Outstanding Improvement in Podiatry Services and Diabetes Care Across Northern Ireland

Denise Killough, Professional Head of Podiatry Services, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

From Exclusion to Employment: leading mental health recovery

Ellen Malcolm, Occupational Therapy Manager Mental Health and CAMHS, Donna McElduff, Specialist Occupational Therapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the team at Action Mental Health

Advancing Radiotherapy Care Through Leadership and Workforce Transformation

Karen Bradley, Principal Dosimetrist, North West Cancer Centre, Western Health and Social Care Trust



Award for excellence in cancer care

Sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support

From Waiting to Preparing: Transforming the Start of the Cancer Journey

Kar-Lee Brown, Consultant Therapeutic Radiographer for Head & Neck Cancer, Claire Duffy, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Head & Neck Cancer, and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Head & Neck Cancer Multiprofessional Team

Radiotherapy Physics Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy Service

Karen Bradley, Principal Dosimetrist, North West Cancer Centre, Western Health and Social Care Trust

Anal Cancer Awareness Day Pilot Project

Naman Julka-Anderson, Macmillan Consultant Therapeutic Radiographer, AHP Clinical Advisor, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust and Rad Chat Co-Founder, Dr. Catherine Hanna, Consultant Clinical Oncologist, Queens University Belfast and the multi-professional Anal Cancer Awareness Day Pilot Project Team



Award for Masters clinical research

Sponsored by the School of Health Sciences, Ulster University

Safety and Outcomes of Biennial Diabetes Foot Screening in Low-Risk Adults: A Retrospective Cohort Analysis

Claire Byrne, Principal Podiatrist, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

‘DECISION’ An ethical decision making framework for AHPs in NI

Bernie McGreevy, Community Palliative Care Lead, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Decision-Making Styles of Student Paramedics: Associations with Protocol Reliance and Confidence in Independent Clinical Judgement

Sean Graham, EPRR Training Officer, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

Making Every Contact Count: From First Contact to Lasting Change in Physiotherapy

*Ronan O'Kane, Principal Physiotherapist MSK SS & Pelvic Health Trustwide,
Western Health & Social Care Trust and Professor Chris Bleakley, Ulster University*



Outstanding paramedic science undergraduate of the year award

sponsored by the School of Nursing and Paramedic Science, Ulster University

To be announced



Rising Star Award

Sponsored by Unite the Union, NI Health Branch

Coral Trainor

Respiratory Healthcare Scientist, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Melissa Patterson

Occupational Therapy Assistant, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Ellie Robinson

Orthoptist, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Ciaran McCarroll

Healthcare Science Assistant, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Jackob McComb

Band 5 Physiotherapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Oran Wilson

Band 6 Specialist Physiotherapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Oonagh McManus

Speech and Language Therapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Award for creative and innovative practice

Falls Prevention Deserves Your Attention - BHSCT Falls Prevention Roadshow

Joy Cooper, Community Falls Team Lead (Interim), and the Community Falls Prevention and Management Service, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Transforming Care Through a Person-Centred Frequent Service User Framework

Claire Hallowell, Complex Case Manager and the team at Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

A Walk to Remember: the Pilot of a Simulation-Based-Education Session on the Topic of Frailty

Anne-Marie Stewart and Debbie McVeigh, Occupational Therapists (Belfast Health and Social Care Trust) and the Management, Staff, and Residents of Lansdowne Care Home (Belfast)

Seeing Through Their Eyes: An Inclusive, Sensory-Aware EEG Experience

Grace McCue and Bronagh Woods, Clinical Physiologists, Stacy McAvoy, Administrator, and the Neurophysiology team, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children



The Patricia Blackburn award for significant contribution and achievement

Sponsored by HSC Leadership Centre, Business Services Organisation

To be announced at the ceremony

Award for outstanding service delivery by an AHP or healthcare scientist working outside the NHS

Threshold's ARBI Unit- Leading the Way for ARBI Rehabilitation in Northern Ireland

Naomi Brown, Clinical Lead, Threshold

Post Rehab Exercise Programme (PREP)

Ursula Ferguson, Director of Care, Noelene Hughes, Head of Stroke Services, and the PREP team, Northern Ireland Chest Heart Stroke

Children's Movement Clinic

Claire Dobie, Keelan Murphy and Lynda Croskery, Podiatrists, Foot Clinic NI and Julie Edler, Specialised Paediatric Physiotherapist, Movement and Milestones



Outstanding undergraduate of the year award

sponsored by the School of Health Sciences, Ulster University

To be announced

Award nominated by a patient or service user

To be announced