CYMRU
ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS 2026

WINNERS' GUIDE

ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS CYMRU 2026

Celebrating the winning entries, presented on Thursday 15 October Cardiff Marriott Hotel

Chamberlain Dunn Events
The Old Candlemakers, West Street, Lewes BN7 2NZ
T 020 8334 4500 | E mail@chamberdunn.co.uk
www.chamberlaindunn.com

INNOVATION
CREATIVITY
LEADERSHIP
COMPASSION

CYMRU ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS 2026

Congratulations to all our winners and finalists

Welcome to the work of the finalists of the 2026 Advancing Healthcare Awards Cymru for allied health professionals, healthcare scientists and those who work alongside them.

The Advancing Healthcare Awards Cymru ceremony was held on Thursday 15 October 2026 at the Cardiff Marriott Hotel.

As always it was a privilege to be in Cardiff to celebrate with the winners, finalists and sponsors. These awards just wouldn't be possible without the sponsors - Health Education and Improvement Wales – Welsh Government – Institute of Biomedical Science – Digital Health and Care Wales – Allied Health Professions Federation Cymru – Macmillan Cancer Support – LLAIS - National Pathology Network Programme. A very big thank you to all our sponsors and to our judges who had the difficult job of deciding the winners.

And of course, thank you to everyone who entered, we had a record number of entries and in particular we were delighted to see a great number of entries from healthcare science colleagues. We hope they will be inspired to enter the UK Advancing Healthcare Awards 2027. And we hope that the finalists and winners will share their achievements widely across Wales and the UK as a whole.

This Winners' Guide summarises the work of the finalists, giving contact details and more information about the entries. Thank you to everyone who made the 2026 Cymru awards such a success.

Will Chamberlain-Webber

Managing director, Chamberlain Dunn
October 2026

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 Wales in 2026 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**

OVERALL WINNER



The Neuro Recovery College - The Neurostute

Emma Louise Sinnott, Speech and Language Therapist and **Linda Tremain**, Physiotherapist & Development Lead for the Neurostute Recovery College, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

This was as chosen as the overall winning project as it brings professions, organisations and communities together around what matters most to people. With co-production at its heart, it creates space for recovery, while technology helps overcome geographical barriers. A passionate workforce and strong partnerships support better outcomes, reduced costs and environmental benefits. The judging panel felt this project was an inspiring example of integrated, value-based care with strong potential for wider adoption across Wales.

See next page for more details

Award for excellence in rehabilitation

Sponsored by the Allied Health Professions Federation Cymru

WINNER AND OVERALL WINNER

The Neuro Recovery College - The Neurostute

Emma Louise Sinnott, Speech and Language Therapist and
Linda Tremain, Physiotherapist & Development Lead for the Neurostute Recovery College, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

The Neurostute is a co-produced Neurological Recovery College in Gwent, supporting people living with stroke, acquired brain injury and functional neurological conditions. Inspired by the community ethos of Miners' Institutes, it combines education, rehabilitation, peer support and self-management to provide accessible, person-centred support beyond traditional time-limited services. Aligning with the Welsh Government's Right to Rehabilitation, it helps people maintain progress and avoid feeling abandoned when formal rehabilitation ends.

Developed in partnership with people with lived experience, families, clinicians and community organisations, The Neurostute ensures that support reflects individual needs and priorities. Its multidisciplinary approach addresses physical, cognitive, communication, psychological and social needs within a coordinated, recovery-focused framework. By promoting confidence, independence, wellbeing and community participation, the initiative supports lifelong recovery and aims to reduce health inequalities across Gwent.

> *"an inspiring example of integrated, value-based care with strong potential for wider adoption across Wales."*

CONTACT:
emma.louisesinnott@wales.nhs.uk



FINALISTS



Steps to wellbeing

***Wendy Bromham-Davies**, Occupational Therapist, Swansea Bay University Health Board*

Steps to Wellbeing is a biopsychosocial rehabilitation programme delivered by Allied Health Professionals to support NHS staff, students and volunteers experiencing emotional health challenges. Open to all without prior assessment, it provides preventative and rehabilitative support to help individuals build confidence, resilience and self-management skills. Its person-centred approach promotes recovery, independence and participation in meaningful roles, including work, supporting sustained wellbeing and helping people remain in or return to the workforce.

wendy.bromham-davies@wales.nhs.uk



Transforming end of life care through specialist community rehabilitation physiotherapy

***Nicola Perkins**, Team Lead Specialist Palliative Care Physiotherapist, Specialist Palliative Care Physiotherapy Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board*

This specialist community palliative rehabilitation physiotherapy service supports adults with advanced, progressive and life-limiting illnesses in the Bay Cluster. Delivered in patients' homes, it provides rapid assessment and personalised rehabilitation focused on symptom management, mobility, independence, positioning and breathlessness. The service aims to maintain dignity, autonomy and quality of life, support carers, prevent avoidable crises and hospital admissions, and help patients receive timely, person-centred care in their preferred place at the end of life

Nicola.Perkins2@wales.nhs.uk

Award for excellence in cancer care

Sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support

WINNER

Lymphaticovenous anastomosis surgery in Wales: improving outcomes for adults with cancer related lymphoedema

Melanie Thomas, Clinical Director and **Cheryl Pike**, National Innovations Lymphoedema Specialist, Lymphoedema Wales Clinical Network and **the collaborative team** across Swansea University, Swansea Bay University Health Board and the Lymphoedema Wales Clinical Network

The lead lymphoedema physiotherapist engaged patients, nurses, surgeons, academics, data analysts and fellow allied healthcare professionals to co-develop the UK's first NHS-funded LVA pathway and subsequent growth of real-world LVA evidence, which has been shared locally and internationally.

The team originally supported by a Macmillan funded post has shaped service design, outcomes and evaluation priorities, ensuring value-based person-centred care. Early multi stakeholder workshops, exploring lived experience with patients, lead to the development of the internally recognised LYMPROM©: a validated lymphoedema-specific Patient Reported Outcome Measure.

Ongoing collaboration continues supporting evaluation of the long-term impact of LVA.

Evaluation of the first 150 patients demonstrated improved quality of life, productivity and cost-effectiveness, strengthening the case for sustainable commissioning. To date, 210 patients have benefited from LVA, reducing both the physical impact of lymphoedema and the daily burden of lifelong compression therapy.

> *"…this was an excellent showcase of how AHPs can work in a different way with a pan-Wales approach."*

CONTACT:
Melanie.J.Thomas@wales.nhs.uk



FINALISTS



Co-produced national diet resource transforming equitable, evidence-based support for people with breast cancer

***Sian Lewis**, Macmillan AHP Cancer Lead, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and **Jane Spivey**, Macmillan AHP Cancer Lead, Powys Teaching Health Board*

A nationally endorsed, co-produced digital resource transforming access to evidence-based dietary advice for people with breast cancer across Wales. By combining lived experience with multidisciplinary expertise, it reduces misinformation, improves patient confidence, and delivers equitable, high-quality support regardless of geography or access to specialist services.

sian.m.lewis2@wales.nhs.uk



From diagnosis to better outcomes: embedding prehabilitation in cancer care

***Joanne Horton**, Consultant Therapist, Allied Health Professional Lead for Cancer and **Kacey Mills**, Project Manager and the team at Swansea Bay University Health Board*

The Point of Diagnosis (PoD) cancer prehabilitation service in Swansea Bay UHB provides early, personalised, holistic assessment and intervention for people newly diagnosed with cancer, or those receiving sequential cancer treatment. It improves treatment readiness, patient experience and outcomes, reduces inequalities, and embeds proactive, value-based care within the cancer pathway.

joanne.horton@wales.nhs.uk

Award for excellence in diagnostics

Sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science

Slaying the gap: universal testing for Hepatitis D in Wales

Daniel Gill, Senior Biomedical Scientist, Wales Specialist Virology Centre and **the team** at Public Health Wales

This innovative laboratory-led project transformed Hepatitis D (HDV) testing across Wales by replacing an inconsistent, user-requested testing model with **universal automated reflex testing**. The programme was developed in response to gaps identified in HDV testing among people living with hepatitis B and brought together consultant virologists, biomedical scientists, Public Health Wales epidemiologists, hepatitis B clinicians, pharmacists and laboratory informatics specialists.

The new pathway has significantly improved equity and access to diagnosis, increasing HDV testing coverage from **60% to 94%**, with the programme on track to achieve 100%. Standardising testing regardless of geography or clinical specialty reduced variation and identified previously undiagnosed infections, enabling patients to access appropriate therapies and improving patient care.

Biomedical scientists were central to the successful implementation, leading verification, quality assurance and integration of the new pathway into routine laboratory practice. Testing was also repatriated from London to the Wales Specialist Virology Centre, reducing turnaround times and costs, simplifying the diagnostic pathway and reducing the environmental impact associated with transporting samples across the UK. The project has strengthened collaboration between laboratory and clinical teams and established a sustainable platform for future diagnostic innovation across Wales.

> *“…the team turned a recognised gap in diagnostic provision into a national solution”*

CONTACT:
Daniel.Gill@wales.nhs.uk



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Transforming regional nuclear medicine diagnostics for patients with bile acid malabsorption

*Rachel Bidder, Head of Nuclear Medicine Physics and **the wider team** at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board*

The team transformed a vulnerable regional nuclear medicine service for patients with bile acid malabsorption through pathway redesign, increasing diagnostic capacity four-fold, improving patient experience, enhancing safety and regulatory compliance, and creating a sustainable service for South East Wales.

rachel.bidder@wales.nhs.uk

FINALISTS

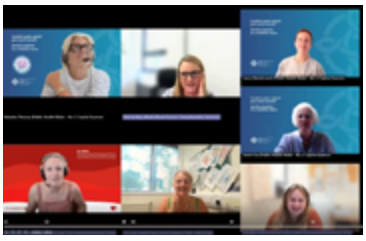


Implementation and refinement of a Clinical Scientist-led sleep diagnostics pathway for sleep disordered breathing

Lois Attewell, Head of Respiratory and Sleep Physiology, Lung function and Sleep Apnoea Team, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

The service was transformed without additional resources by expanding the scope of the Clinical Scientist workforce and developing a safe, robust and sustainable sleep pathway. STP students undertook research to develop effective diagnostic triage criteria, ensuring patients received the most appropriate diagnostic device while reducing unnecessary testing. A **live reporting model** was also introduced, making diagnostic reporting more responsive, scalable and sustainable.

Lois.Attewell@wales.nhs.uk



Implementation of all-Wales Fetal RhD Screening Programme

Felicity May, Consultant Clinical Scientist (Deputy Head of Transplantation Services), Welsh Blood Service

The team helped implement **all-Wales fetal RhD screening using cell-free fetal DNA**, enabling targeted anti-D prophylaxis based on the baby’s predicted RhD status. Developed through national collaboration, the programme replaced a universal treatment approach with more personalised care, reducing unnecessary anti-D administration and improving efficiency across antenatal services.

felicity.may@wales.nhs.uk

Award for digital and technology innovation

Sponsored by Digital Health and Care Wales

AHP WINNER

Virtual delivery and smartphone application for Foodwise for Life: an all-Wales community weight management programme

Lisa Williams, All Wales Nutrition Training Facilitator, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and **the collaborative team** across all major Health Boards

The **Foodwise for Life programme** has transformed community weight management by combining virtual group delivery, online resources and a co-designed smartphone app with evidence-based behaviour change techniques. The programme supports adults to make sustainable changes to their diet and physical activity, with the app providing tools for self-monitoring, goal setting, meal planning and activity tracking. This enables participants to continue engaging with the programme and managing their health between sessions, building confidence and greater independence. The digital approach has expanded access and flexibility while supporting consistent delivery across Wales, creating a **scalable, sustainable and cost-effective model of prevention** that can improve health outcomes and help reduce future demand on NHS services.

CONTACT:
lisa.williams16@wales.nhs.uk

> *… was a strong blueprint that could be replicated across other Allied Health Professional services.*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

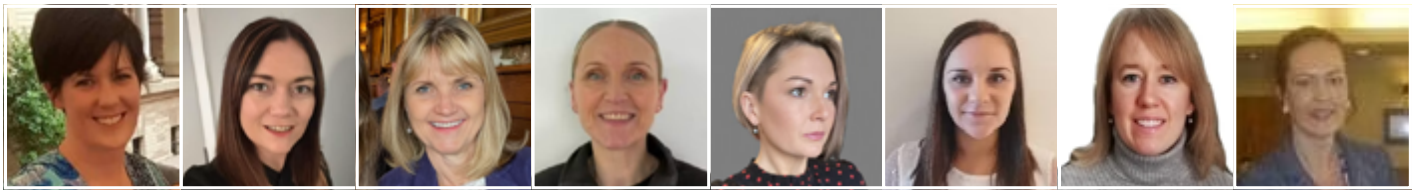


Digital first, not digital only: inclusive rural rehabilitation

***Owen Hughes**, Head of Powys Living Well Service, and **the team** at Powys Living Well Service*

Powys Living Well Service has embedded a digital-first but not digital-only model to improve access to rural rehabilitation and self-management. Virtual care, online group programmes, device loans and practical digital support reduce travel, waiting and non-engagement while ensuring people who face digital barriers are actively supported to participate.

owen.hughes@wales.nhs.uk



HEALTHCARE SCIENCE WINNER

A Digital Transformation of Sleep Services

Christian Newman, Deputy Head of Value Based Healthcare and **Emma Davies**, Clinical Physiology Manager: Respiratory and Sleep Science and the team at Hywel Dda University Health Board

The Hywel Dda Sleep Apnoea Service has transformed care for a large rural population by introducing **modem-enabled CPAP devices, remote monitoring and virtual reviews**. Faced with rising referrals, a significant diagnostic backlog and growing demand for CPAP follow-up, the service moved from a reactive, appointment-based model to a proactive, data-driven approach. More than 1,500 patients are now supported through remote monitoring, enabling clinicians to track treatment adherence and outcomes, identify issues early and intervene before problems escalate. The new model has reduced unnecessary face-to-face appointments, released valuable clinical capacity and improved access for patients across four hospital sites. Developed collaboratively by sleep physiology, digital, operational and value-based healthcare teams, the standardised approach is now embedded in routine practice, providing a **scalable, sustainable model of care for a rural population**.

CONTACT:
christian.newman@wales.nhs.uk

> *… the potential for scalability is evident, underpinned by a clear vision for future development and wider adoption.*



Award for Outstanding Leadership

Sponsored by Welsh Government

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

AHP
WINNER



Exceptional leadership through effective triage, risk management and supporting staff wellbeing

Penelope Williams, Occupational Therapist, Vale Community Learning Disability Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board

Penny has demonstrated **compassionate, forward-thinking leadership during significant workforce pressures**, supporting two teams while maintaining patient safety and service quality. She strengthened triage and risk-management processes, introduced clearer ways of working, embraced technology and delegated effectively to improve efficiency and develop staff confidence. Her approachable and supportive leadership has helped maintain patient access, reduce delays and improve service resilience, while creating a positive culture where staff feel valued and supported.

Colleagues describe Penny as knowledgeable, kind and dependable, with her leadership helping to safeguard both patient outcomes and staff wellbeing during a challenging period.

> *… Exceptional leadership through effective triage, risk management and supporting staff wellbeing.*

CONTACT:
penny.williams4@wales.nhs.uk

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE
WINNER



Leading innovation and service transformation to improve cardiorespiratory and sleep care across rural west Wales

Nerys James, Cardiac and Respiratory Healthcare Sciences Manager, Hywel Dda University Health Board

Nerys has demonstrated visionary and compassionate leadership in transforming cardiorespiratory and sleep services, improving access and reducing inequalities for communities across rural West Wales. She led the expansion of Respiratory and Sleep Services across all four acute hospital sites, using remote monitoring and virtual pathways to bring care closer to patients and reduce unnecessary hospital attendance. She has also developed innovative workforce solutions in response to recruitment challenges, including expanding Scientist Training Programme opportunities and introducing an IT STP to support digital innovation. Her work extends beyond her organisation, including contributing to the development of a national Band 4 qualification to strengthen the future healthcare science workforce across Wales.

CONTACT:
Nerys.James2@wales.nhs.uk

> *… Leading innovation and service transformation to improve cardiorespiratory and sleep care across rural west Wales.*

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Leading advanced practice transformation clinical supervision and senior leadership

***Kerry Robertshaw**, Consultant for Urgent Care, and the Senior Advanced Paramedic Practitioners team, Welsh Ambulance Service University Trust*

The team was implemented in February 2025 and has impacted workforce development, strengthened governance and raised clinical standards. They are improving clinical decision-making, enhancing patient outcomes, increasing access to high-quality care and supporting organisational change.

kerry.robertshaw@wales.nhs.uk

FINALISTS



Inclusive whole system leadership

***Madelaine Najjar**, Interim Head of Nutrition & Dietetics, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board*

Madelaine works collaboratively across acute, community and public health boundaries to support CTMUHBs developing whole-systems approach to healthy weight. Working collegiately and with compassion, she ensures that national learning, AHP perspectives, local service knowledge and experience, and best practice underpin both adult and children's weight management service developments.

Madelaine.Najjar@wales.nhs.uk

Bringing people together: collaborative leadership transforming patient care across Wales



***Monica Casanova Martins**, Clinical Team Lead in Nuclear Medicine, Swansea Bay University Health Board*

Monica's leadership vision is to create a collaborative, compassionate and sustainable healthcare system where patients, professionals and organisations work together to improve care. By empowering others, developing the workforce and building partnerships across Wales and UK, she has strengthened patient access, quality, safety and the long-term resilience of imaging services.

Monica.Martins@wales.nhs.uk



Leading change, empowering Teams, improving patient care across Wales

***Rhian White**, Laboratory Director, All Wales Medical Genomics Service*

Rhian's vision is to create a collaborative, compassionate and patient-centred laboratory where staff are empowered to drive continuous improvement. Through visible leadership, service transformation and national engagement, she has strengthened quality, reduced patient waiting times, modernised laboratory systems and fostered a culture focused on delivering outstanding care for patients.

rhian.white@wales.nhs.uk

Award for new ways of working

WINNER

Care closer to home: transforming liver disease rehabilitation through home-based nasogastric feeding and reconditioning

Amelia Rowlands, Gastroenterology Lead Dietitian and Rhian Booth, Clinical Lead Dietitian and the team at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

The innovation lies in fundamentally redesigning a traditional inpatient pathway. Rather than requiring prolonged hospital admission for feeding and rehabilitation, we safely delivered specialist NG feeding, dietetic care and physiotherapy-led reconditioning in patients' homes. This integrated, multidisciplinary model combined clinical expertise, value-based healthcare principles and robust governance to deliver complex specialist care in a community setting. By focusing on rehabilitation, reconditioning and earlier intervention, the service not only improved patient outcomes but also reduced hospital utilisation, released capacity and challenged assumptions about where highly specialised liver disease care can be safely and effectively delivered.

> *"… a truly innovative project for challenging traditional models of care and redesigning services around patient needs."*

CONTACT:
amelia.rowlands2@wales.nhs.uk



FINALISTS

Podiatry Transforming Vascular Services in Hywel Dda UHB

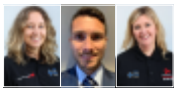


Katie Evans-Bundy, Head of Podiatry & Orthotics, Christian Newman, Deputy Head Value-Based Healthcare and National Clinical Lead Value-Based Healthcare and the team at Hywel Dda University Health Board

The team pioneered an innovative vascular referral pathway, ensuring patients receive the right care from the right professional at the right time. By managing 45% of referrals originally directed to vascular surgeons, the service has achieved £333,000 in cost avoidance and reduced waiting times from 4 years to 26 weeks, improving patient safety, acceleratin access to treatment and reducing pressure on specialist services, helping prevent serious complications, including potential amputations.

katie.evans-bundy@wales.nhs.uk

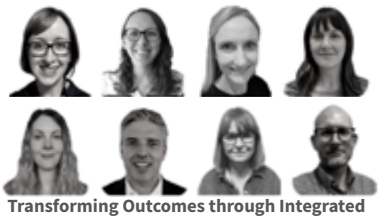
Bridging the interdisciplinary gap to get patients on the right pathway



Daniel Rothwell, National Research and Innovation Specialist and Clinical Scientist, Joanne Brown, National Lymphoedema and Cellulitis Clinical Lead and Paramedic, and Melanie Thomas, Clinical Director and Physiotherapist, Lymphoedema Wales Clinical Network

This pioneering collaboration brought lymphoedema and heart failure services together to improve care for patients with overlapping conditions. Joint clinics enabled timely assessment and optimisation of compression therapy, reducing delays and unnecessary appointments while supporting patients' independence and quality of life.

daniel.rothwell@wales.nhs.uk



Transforming Outcomes through Integrated Psychiatric Genomics in Wales

Donna Duffin, Principal Genetic Counsellor and the team at All Wales Medical Genomics Service

The All Wales Psychiatric Genomics Service focused on reducing barriers to genomic healthcare for people with psychiatric disorders delivering an equitable, national multidisciplinary pathway integrating genetics, psychiatry, pharmacy, research and lived experience. The project improves engagement, reduces stigma, increases access to personalised care and is addressing longstanding health inequalities.

donna.duffin@wales.nhs.uk



Human platelet lysate

Michael Cahillane, Senior Research Scientist, Welsh Blood Service and the collaborative research team

The Welsh Blood Service Human Platelet Lysate project transforms time-expired platelet components, no longer suitable for transfusion, into a valuable scientific resource. Maintaining a strict transfusion-first approach, the project redirects unavoidable wastage into healthcare innovation, supporting sustainable research, reducing reliance on animal-derived supplements and maximising the value of every donation.

michael.cahillane@wales.nhs.uk

Rising Stars



Sophie Cagodan

Senior Renal Technologist (Annex 21 - Trainee), Swansea Bay University Health Board

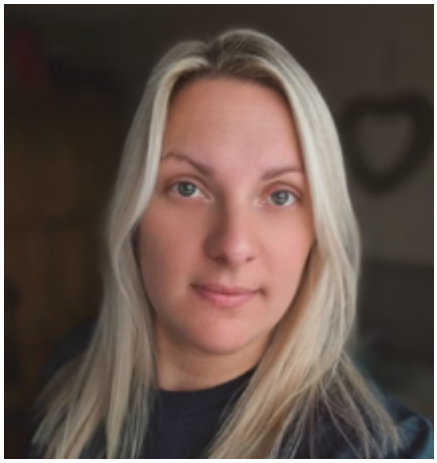
Sophie progressed from a Band 3 Assistant Technologist to a Band 6 trainee while completing a five-year Degree Apprenticeship in Integrated Engineering. Throughout this route she has demonstrated exceptional resilience, determination and commitment. Alongside developing advanced technical skills in a specialist renal service, she supports patients receiving home haemodialysis and leads service improvement projects to enhance patient outcomes. Her achievements demonstrate how talent and perseverance can overcome barriers and create opportunities for professional success.



Scott Leonard

Trainee Advanced Paramedic Practitioner, Welsh Ambulance Service University NHS Trust

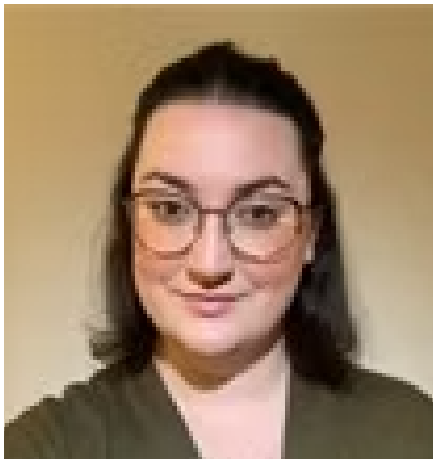
Scott consistently demonstrates professionalism, compassion and a strong commitment to learning in his role as a Trainee Advanced Paramedic Practitioner. He balances operational practice, academic study and professional development and has shown resilience, adaptability and excellent clinical decision-making while maintaining high standards of patient care. He actively seeks feedback, reflects on his experiences and uses challenges as opportunities to develop his skills and knowledge. He demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and delivering high-quality, patient-centred care.



Sophie Arnold

Specialist Occupational Therapist, Older Adult Mental Health Team, Powys Teaching Health Board

Sophie is an exceptional practitioner who combines creativity, compassion and calm to deliver innovative, person-centred care in complex situations, including supporting people in crisis and those living with advanced dementia. Working across a large rural health board with limited resources, she manages a demanding caseload across multiple teams while providing informal leadership, mentoring colleagues and supporting service delivery. She demonstrates remarkable resilience and professionalism and is a strong advocate for vulnerable patients, confidently managing risk and complexity, bringing teams together and ensuring patients feel heard, supported and valued.



Victoria Illsley

Audiologist, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Victoria has demonstrated exceptional commitment to professional development, progressing from trainee associate practitioner to qualified audiologist through completing her PTP equivalence. She has shown resilience and flexibility in navigating development opportunities, using setbacks to reflect and identify alternative routes to success. Alongside developing her clinical skills and planning further specialisation, she has taken on non-clinical responsibilities to support the service. Highly motivated, organised and reliable she shows strong potential for future senior leadership within the profession.



Holly Gibbs

Physiotherapist (Falls Prevention), Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Holly is a compassionate and highly motivated physiotherapist who champions patient-centred care, evidence-based practice and innovation within the Falls Prevention Service. During significant challenges and periods of senior staff absence, she has stepped up to provide calm, consistent leadership, motivating colleagues and helping maintain high-quality services. She is passionate about frailty and falls prevention and brings creativity to service development and sustainability. Her positive, supportive approach makes her a valued colleague and a significant asset to the service and the wider population.



Sophie Reynolds

Occupational Therapy Assistant, Swansea Bay University Health Board

Sophie is a highly valued Occupational Therapy Assistant who demonstrates exceptional reliability, initiative and compassion. Having overcome challenging early professional experiences, she has developed greater confidence, clinical judgement and communication skills, using reflection and resilience to support her growth. She takes initiative in complex situations, contributes to assessments and interventions, and balances clinical and administrative responsibilities effectively. She shows strong potential for further development, with the ambition to train as an Occupational Therapist.

Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science professions workforce

Sponsored by Health Education and Improvement Wales

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE WINNER

Introducing Powys to POCT: Transforming Point of Care Testing in Powys

Melanie Prince, Point of Care Testing Co-ordinator, Powys Teaching Health Board



Since employing its first Biomedical Scientist in 2024, Powys has transformed Point of Care Testing into a growing healthcare science service. Strategic workforce planning, digital connectivity and governance innovation have created a sustainable model supporting community diagnostics, reducing health inequalities and bringing equitable access to diagnostics closer to home.

Delivering high-quality Point of Care Testing (POCT) across a rural Health Board covering a quarter of Wales requires a workforce model capable of supporting governance, training, quality assurance and service development at scale. In Powys, this is amplified by the absence of a District General Hospital and local pathology laboratories, meaning traditional acute workforce models are not applicable. As responsibility for POCT originally sat within the Medical Devices service there was limited access to diagnostic, pathology and healthcare science leadership typically available within acute Health Boards so Melanie set out to establish POCT as a strategic diagnostic service supporting community diagnostics, clinical transformation and equitable access to care across Powys. She developed and secured approval for an Integrated Business Group business case establishing a substantive Band 7 POCT Coordinator role and phased workforce expansion. The service now supports 793 operators, 345 devices and 91 clinical locations, creating sustainable foundations for community diagnostics across rural Wales.

CONTACT:
Melanie.Prince2@wales.nhs.uk

AHP WINNER

Innovative interprofessional simulation and Hackathon learning to develop the future workforce

Kirsty Thomas, Occupational Therapy Lecturer, and the Nursing and occupational therapy team, Swansea University, **Janine Evans**, Advanced Practitioner Occupational Therapist, Swansea University Health Board



Swansea University and Swansea Bay University Health Board have co-developed an innovative interprofessional learning programme for Occupational Therapy and Children's Nursing students, combining simulation-based learning with a Hackathon. The initiative addresses gaps in multidisciplinary learning and burn prevention education, helping prepare students to deliver integrated, preventative and person-centred care.

Following specialist teaching from burns clinicians, students participated in a simulated paediatric burns ward, working together to support a child and family preparing for discharge. This developed their communication, clinical reasoning, holistic assessment and collaborative decision-making skills. They also worked in interprofessional teams to design evidence-based burn prevention interventions, applying leadership, innovation and quality improvement skills to a real public health challenge. The programme bridges education, clinical practice and public health, creating a scalable model for developing a prevention-focused, multidisciplinary workforce across Wales.

CONTACT:
Laura.Ingham@wales.nhs.uk

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Delivering lean innovation for safer, faster, fairer patient care

***Caroline Kirwan**, Lead Consultant Genetic Counsellor and **Charlotte Jaggard**, Principal Genetic Counsellor and **the team** at All Wales Medical Genomics Service*

A multidisciplinary clinical genomics team transformed cancer pathway delivery across Wales using lean methodology and workforce alignment. By improving patient visibility, prioritisation and flow, the team reduced delays, increased capacity, improved referral-to-treatment performance from 34% to 93% compliance in urgent pathways, and delivered more equitable, timely patient care.

caroline.kirwan2@wales.nhs.uk



Limited scope reporting Biomedical Scientist (bowel screening) training pilot

***Alan Deacon**, National Pathology Programme Lead, NHS Wales Performance and Improvement*

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and the National Pathology Programme piloted an advanced practice reporting biomedical scientist training programme for bowel screening histopathology. The project improved reporting turnaround times, increased pathology workforce capacity and service resilience, ultimately supporting better outcomes for patients undergoing bowel cancer screening.

alan.deacon@wales.nhs.uk

FINALIST



From pressure to potential: a new dysphagia workforce model

***Laura Banci**, Professional Lead Speech and Language Therapist Acute & Secondary Care, **Anthony Sueref**, Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapist and **Julie-Anne Channing**, Speech & Language Therapy Assistant, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board*

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board transformed workforce delivery by enabling Band 4 Speech & Language Therapy assistants (SLTAs) to safely manage non-complex dysphagia (swallowing disorders). This innovative, cost-effective and competency-based approach released specialist capacity, improved patient flow, and enhanced staff development—demonstrating a scalable, sustainable strategy to workforce modernisation across healthcare.

laura.banci@wales.nhs.uk

Thank you to all of our judges

Angela Douglas MBE
Kerrie Phipps
Nick Howell
Catherine Chin
Lauren Edwards
Nicky Thomas
Claire Madsen
Lee Peters
Peter Carr
Dr Elise Lang
Lucy Smothers
Rachel Lewis
Dr Sarah Pitt
Mark Bradley
Rhian Fewtrell
Emma Cooke
Martin Rolles
Sarah Bant
Ffion Wynn
Melanie Barker
Sue Brierley-Hobson
Grahame Pope
Thomas Howson
Kate Williams
Vicki Heath

Chamberlain Dunn Events
The Old Candlemakers, West Street, Lewes BN7 2NZ
T 020 8334 4500 | E mail@chamberdunn.co.uk
www.chamberlaindunn.com

IBMS Institute of Biomedical Science

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Addysg a Gwella Iechyd Cymru (AaGIC)
Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)

ahpf cymru·wales

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Iechyd a Gofal Digidol Cymru
Digital Health and Care Wales