



2020 United Kingdom  
Advancing healthcare awards  
Allied health professionals & healthcare scientists

# Winners' Guide

Advancing Healthcare Awards 2020

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Innovation | Creativity | Leadership | Compassion

Celebrating the winning entries presented on  
16 October 2020



Chamberlain Dunn Events

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# Congratulations to all our winners and finalists

Welcome to our Guide to the work of the finalists of the 2020 Advancing Healthcare awards for allied health professionals, healthcare scientists and those who work alongside them.

This was a particularly strong year for entries. From across the UK, representing many different specialties, the entries flooded in, giving our judges a challenging task to come up with finalists in each category.

Our finalists have had to wait rather longer than usual this year after the March ceremony was postponed, but the results are now out and congratulations to everyone. If you would like to find out more, many of our finalists took part in our Meet the Finalists webinars which you can watch on our [website](#).

One of the unique features of our Awards is that finalists are judged by a mix of specialists across the AHP and healthcare science world. This means that they have to explain carefully what their work is about and its significance in the bigger healthcare picture. We have found over the years that our entrants have become better and better at this – and at spreading the word outside their immediate place of work.

The Advancing Healthcare awards over the past fifteen years have developed a real sense of community, not least through our loyal sponsors and supporters who contribute not only the financial support we need, but also ideas, help with judging and suggestions for the guest list. We appreciate this close involvement. Congratulations to all our finalists who have captured what they have achieved, told us how they did it and how you can do it too.



Alison Dunn and  
Will Chamberlain-Webber

Joint managing directors  
Chamberlain Dunn

If you would like to be involved in next year's awards as a sponsor, judge or simply share some ideas about how we can develop the programme, please contact Rachael Fisher on [rachael@chamberdunn.co.uk](mailto:rachael@chamberdunn.co.uk) or call 020 8334 4500

## 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** In print and on-line it is a more permanent record of the achievements of AHPs and healthcare scientists in 2019 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.

Advancing Healthcare Awards 2020

# OVERALL WINNER



## The Wheelchair Skills Programme

**Gemma Hawtin**, physiotherapy assistant

Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust

“An outstanding project that could and should be adopted everywhere. The team showed a huge commitment to the children they work with – their passion shone through. They identified gaps in the service that had been missed by their professionally qualified colleagues. They did what they knew was the right thing and showed real leadership in action, taking more senior colleagues with them.”

### THE JUDGES' COMMENTS.

**FIND OUT MORE**  
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**AHA**  
2020 United Kingdom  
Advancing healthcare awards  
Allied health professionals & healthcare scientists

# THE YEAR OF GREEN ACTION AWARD FOR AHPs AND HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS DEMONSTRATING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



## WINNER

**Sioned Quirke**, Professional Manager Weight Management Service

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

### Connect: The First Children and Young Persons Weight Management Service in Wales

At the heart of the services design and delivery have been the principles of Prudent Healthcare and the WBFGA's five ways of working, resulting in a collaborative service that has been shaped through co-production with users and health care professionals

The Board recognised the importance of the sustainability and the positive relationship that the natural environment can have on physical and mental well-being, demonstrated by a number of key activities:

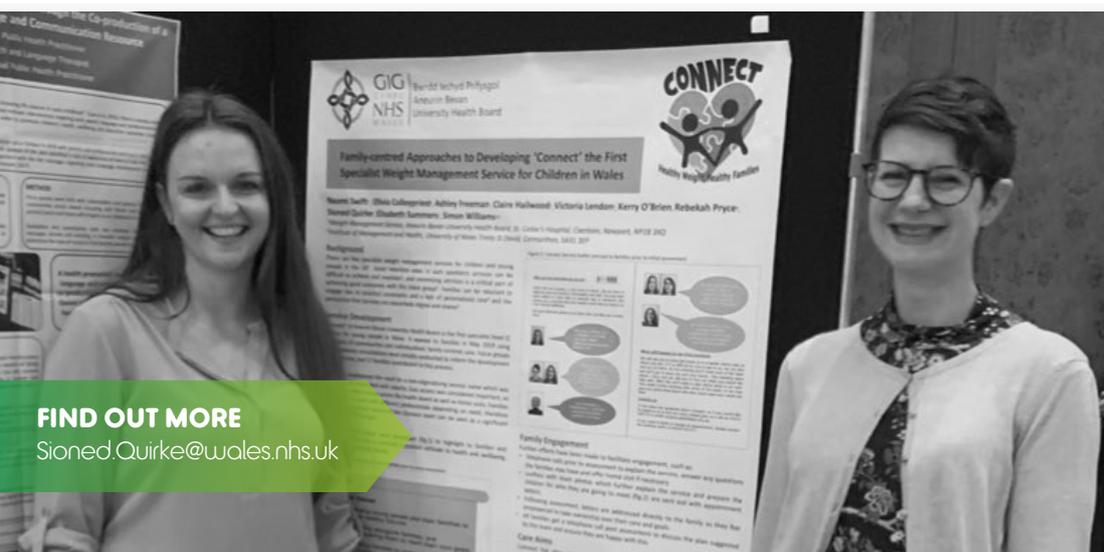
- Setting well-being objectives which focus on the environment
- Developing its Building a Healthier Gwent Strategy which has a key theme on the relationship between nature and well-being
- Developing an action plan which will explore the biodiversity risks and opportunities across the current estate
- Our Clinical Futures Transformation programme designed around care closer

to home, to facilitate better patient engagement, better quality care, improves the local health economy and will ultimately reduce the organisation's and community carbon footprint.

- The new Connect service has a number direct and indirect impacts on the sustainable use of resources and the environment such as encouraging healthy eating using local fresh produce, reducing the consumption of processed food and packaged items, promoting activity in local green spaces, contributing to the wellbeing and cohesion of local communities, using technology to reduce appointment frequency and to offer opportunities for virtual consultations both of which will reduce travel and carbon emissions.

“

We were really impressed with the quality of the entries and the number that had chosen to identify their consideration of the environment into their projects. We particularly liked the winners' entry as they had a wide ranging appreciation of environmental impacts and had shown consideration of sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of their operations, biodiversity impacts and actions, which can be rare, and also connecting people with nature for their health and wellbeing which was a particular focus of YoGA



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# THE YEAR OF GREEN ACTION AWARD FOR AHPS AND HEALTHCARE SCIENTISTS DEMONSTRATING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



## HIGHLY COMMENDED



**Brendan Lloyd**, executive medical director, and the advanced paramedic practitioners, Welsh Ambulance Clinical Team, Welsh Ambulance Services Trust, for their radical new Clinical Model which shows great awareness of environmental matters. See page 6 [brendan.lloyd2@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:brendan.lloyd2@wales.nhs.uk)



**Jack Stancel-Lewis**, audiologist, healthcare science fellow, Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London, NHS England and NHS Improvement and the Hearing Birdsong co-production team: audiologists, nurse, patient representatives, researchers, designers and engineers. Hearing Birdsong, inspired by a patient story, uniquely brings together health and art to reach seldom heard voices to change behaviour and encourage early identification and intervention of hearing loss.

They have aimed to ensure low environmental impact and sustainability throughout the project.

Recyclable and biodegradable materials are used such as the wood of the bird boxes and they have developed a durable, flexible installation that can be re-used in different spaces.

Nature and people are at the heart of this project. The use of beautiful birdsong and woodland sounds, along with information on birds, urbanisation and the loss of access to and diversity of nature, increases community connection with nature and awareness of the importance of supporting green spaces and the positive mental health benefits of these spaces.

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**Rachael Sharples**, palliative rehabilitation team lead, Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice who has pioneered a culture shift at the Hospice on palliative rehabilitation. Rachael is passionate about running in the Yorkshire Dales and has set up a weekly running group for staff to run over the moors. She has supported the idea of getting patients out of their rooms to see the stunning view over the moors and has supported recruiting volunteers to take patients out of their rooms into the gardens. She is hoping to work with the occupational therapists to initiate a gardening group for patients and carers as a way of helping them enjoy the fruits of nature as part of their palliative rehabilitation.



**Amanda Atkinson**, locality lead paediatric OT, Swansea Bay University Health Board whose drive to improve services for paediatric patients and their carers has been undertaken by a whole system approach of improving the skills of the OT staff, parents and teachers to support the children and ensuring improved accessibility, outcomes and experience of children and their carers

She has worked jointly with Play Wales to provide outdoor play sessions in local parks during school holidays and engaging parents into the play sessions to ensure sustainability. She has worked jointly with Sports Development to support inclusive outdoor sporting experiences for children and their siblings such as kayaking and climbing.

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# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT'S AWARD FOR PRUDENT HEALTHCARE



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## WINNER

**David Hughes**, Clinical Lead Podiatry &  
**Sally Bloomfield**, Head of Podiatry, Orthotic, MCAS and Persistent  
Pain Services

Swansea Bay University Health Board

### Direct access to Podiatry – an example of prudent re-design

Traditional models of referral to podiatry services were outdated with 42% being inappropriate, demand for services were increasing and waiting times lengthening. The team created a sustainable access model redesign using PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) methodology within existing resources to enable direct open access at the point of greatest need. It has reduced unnecessary medical interventions, including prescriptions of antibiotics, used co-production to boost patient involvement and to encourage healthy behaviours.

Direct access has risen to 87% of new patients. Within a 3-month period nearly 700 potential avoidable prescriptions were identified. The service now has around 1000 new patient referrals each month and is the only such model in podiatry in Wales.

One patient commented: 'I can't believe that people can just walk in to see you. I thought you would only get this sort of attention in Harley Street.'

**Green point:** The model acknowledges that there are times where face to face consultation is not required and telephone or Skype communication will suffice. The Podiatry Direct telephone assessment service eliminates unnecessary travel from home to clinic thus further reducing carbon

“ The team showed huge resilience through their long journey to get to where they are now. This is a major change which has important messages for the whole NHS. We loved their passion about the service they created and their desire to expand to others. ”

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



**Brendan Lloyd**, executive medical director, who implemented a new clinical model in the **Welsh Ambulance Services Trust** which has enhanced patient outcomes, clinical excellence and improved recruitment, diversity, engagement and co-production.

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## FINALIST



**Sue Koziel**, professional lead for paediatric speech and language services and **Lisa Chess**, head of speech and language therapy, **Swansea Bay University Health Board** for their Preschool Speech and Language Therapy Preventative Pathway which promotes school -readiness by increasing knowledge of parents, carers and professionals.

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**UKHA**  
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# THE NHS EMPLOYERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY AN AHP OR HEALTHCARE SCIENCE APPRENTICE, SUPPORT WORKER OR TECHNICIAN



## WINNER

**Gemma Hawtin**, Physiotherapy Assistant

Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust

### The Wheelchair Skills Programme

Gemma noticed that in the specialist inclusive learning centre the children didn't know how to use their wheelchairs independently. There was a summer wheelchair skills course, jointly with Whizz-Kidz, but they felt that a specialist course for children with both physical and learning disabilities within their existing service was needed. And they made it happen – a flexible child-centred approach tailored to individuals and schools. They now run individual and group sessions to help children achieve their wheelchair skills goals. The training package is now used by physiotherapy assistants across the city.

Over 25 children have had wheelchair training since December 2018, which has increased children's confidence and participation by developing the skills needed to be independently mobile in their wheelchairs

One parent said: 'It was great to see her learning from other children in the group sessions.'

“ An outstanding project that could and should be adopted everywhere. The team showed a huge commitment to the children they work with – their passion shone through. They identified gaps in the service that had been missed by their professionally qualified colleagues. They did what they knew was the right thing and showed real leadership in action, taking more senior colleagues with them. ”

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



**Linda Rafferty**, children's therapy assistant practitioner, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust who created the Ask Me Communication Book to help all children and young people to better understand their physiotherapy and occupational therapy treatment.

[Linda.Rafferty@nhs.net](mailto:Linda.Rafferty@nhs.net)

## FINALIST



**Belinda Clayton**, assistant therapy practitioner, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust who took the lead in maximising year-round use of the ward garden to promote the healing properties of nature with the Year Round Recovery Garden

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FIND OUT MORE

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# The Rising Star award Sponsored by Chamberlain Dunn



Here are our 2020 Rising Stars



**Maria Burton**, trainee clinical scientist, Welsh Transplantation Laboratory, Velindre University NHS Trust for her determination and commitment to continuous development and learning for herself and others.



**Helen McGinn**, specialist physiotherapist, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust who gave basic life support to a man she found in the street with breathing difficulties. 'She is always smiling and very modest not realising her talents as a friend and as a physiotherapist.'



**Laura Ellis**, senior occupational therapist, Bradford District NHS Foundation Trust who teamed up with the local rugby club to devise an exercise programme for people with acute mental health problems.



**Micsha Costa**, specialist biomedical scientist, SW London Pathology for her dedication and hardwork — always the first to volunteer to help and support others whatever the challenge.



**Nehzat Koohi**, clinical scientist, honorary clinical lecturer, University College Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for her passion for research and inspiring others to undertake projects to benefit patients.



**Joseph Carbery**, operating department practitioner, George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust who took the lead to ensure that all items required for the new onco-plastic service are in place when needed.

# VIAPATH AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN HEALTHCARE SCIENCE



## WINNER

### Molecular MRD Team

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London

### A new method to identify paediatric lymphoblastic leukaemia biomarkers

The team have developed high-throughput sequencing for analysis of paediatric diagnostic leukaemia samples. Current methods occasionally fail to identify a biomarker to track. Since patients are stratified for treatment intensification at day +29 based solely on minimal disease level identification, it's vital to have a working patient-specific assay to ensure improved patient outcome.

Patients are diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia using multiple laboratory tests on a bone marrow sample. One test involves identifying patient-specific molecular signatures of disease. This signature is then used to design a personalised assay to track disease during treatment. All of this must be done by the time the first follow up sample is taken, at day +29.

At diagnosis patients receive initial chemotherapy and then have a subsequent bone marrow aspirate at day+29. The lab must turn around the result on this day +29 sample within 5 days of receipt. The patient is then stratified as risk or low-risk based on the level of this MRD result and go on to either receive more intensified treatment or no further treatment. Thus it is vital that healthcare scientists are able to successfully

identify markers to track within a short timeframe otherwise patients will be under- or over-treated.

**Green Point:** The new method requires less toxic chemical usage — for example the previous method used polyacrylamide which is now not needed. Samples can be batched permitting greater efficiency. Some patients now receive less chemotherapy and less bone marrow sampling as a consequence of the new approach.

“ This innovative project will have a long-term impact on the treatment pathway for children with cancer. It demonstrates biomedical scientists contributing to leading patient care of tomorrow. It has strong sustainability and further improvements are anticipated such as reducing the need for bone marrow testing. ”

## FINALISTS



**Anna Stec**, clinical engineer and healthcare science fellow and **Dr Maddy Borhani**, clinical engineer and healthcare science programme lead, **NHS England & NHS Improvement** who introduced point of care testing to diagnose Streptococcus A speedily in community settings.

[anna.stec@nhs.net](mailto:anna.stec@nhs.net)

[maddy.borhani@nhs.net](mailto:maddy.borhani@nhs.net)



**Jack Stancel-Lewis**, healthcare science fellow, audiologist and **Ruth Thomsen**, scientific director, **London Region, NHS England** for The Sensory Health Passport, to help older people in care homes with their hearing and sight problems.

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Allied health professionals & healthcare scientists

# THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S AWARD FOR DRIVING IMPROVEMENT, DELIVERING RESULTS



## WINNER

**Debbie Peet**, Head of Medical Physics &  
**Donna Riley**, Newborn Hearing Screening Manager

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

### Back to Basics in Newborn Hearing Screening

A variation in performance between individual newborn hearing screeners was noted and a back to basics programme was introduced and enhanced over the next 5 years resulting in sustained and continued improvement in individual and team performance, with positive impacts for both patients and team members

As part of the national newborn hearing screening programme 99.7% are tested within 4 weeks of birth. Should hearing impairment be identified as a possibility, early identification gives babies a better 'life chance' of developing speech and language skills and of improving social and emotional interaction from an early age. The assistant healthcare scientist screeners at the trust use a device placed in newborn babies ears which emits a signal and assesses the cochlear response. Babies with a clear response are discharged from the screening programme. In 2014 clear response rates for the test varied between screeners and the back to basics programme inter screener variation and improve the rate overall. This involved education, training, reflection, consideration of the environment, observation and feedback on response rates. Results were markedly improved and have continued to improve.

**Green Point:** They ensure consumables never go out of date. Data is acquired electronically and transferred to a central records system. By completing the vast majority of tests within the hospital, additional journeys are minimised. Rare home visits are fitted into journeys to or from work.

The Trust has a large Health and Wellbeing programme for staff including encouraging staff to connect with nature. This team engages in additional team building activities including the Twilight walk when the team walked for 10km around Leicester City Centre raising money for a local hospice.

“ This is a great project which meets and exceeds all criteria. It's cost effective and green; and demonstrates highly effective team work and leadership. This is a group of people passionate about what they do and about what they have been able to achieve. ”

## FINALISTS



**Deborah Pritchard**, laboratory services manager and **Sandra Lloyd**, head of patient services, **Velindre University NHS Trust** who introduced virtual Crossmatching in Transplantation to benefit patients, service users and the laboratory, without compromising service quality.

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[Sandra.lloyd4@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Sandra.lloyd4@wales.nhs.uk)



**Ashfaq Gilkar**, lead clinical analyst, **London Ambulance Service**, for his work to devise an en-route online Point of Care testing service to help front line staff accelerate decision making, reduce congestion and improve patient A&E waiting times

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#### FIND OUT MORE

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# THE ACADEMY FOR HEALTHCARE SCIENCE AWARD FOR INSPIRING THE HEALTHCARE SCIENCE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE



## WINNER

**Ruth Thomsen**, Scientific Director - London Region

NHS England

As the scientific director for the London region, Ruth has taken great steps to develop and promote the healthcare science workforce. Ruth led a team to develop the Practical Skills in Education Training and Leadership Programme (PSEL). PSEL is a four-day interactive, experiential programme designed to equip and empower healthcare scientists with the relevant leadership knowledge and skills. Those who join the programme become part of a PSEL alumni network which promotes peer support and the sharing of good practice. PSEL has been running for five years across eight regions of the country. This programme is innovative as it aims to develop the leadership potential of healthcare scientists in a course that also allows them to build networks. This plays an important part in providing them with the tools they need in order to raise the profile of the profession, supporting the biomedical workforce for years to come. In 2001 the Department of Health stated that “NHS Trusts have for too long undervalued or not recognised the role of healthcare scientists. It is important that Trusts put this right in the future” and Ruth’s project has made efforts to put this right.

“ Ruth walks and talks her passion for healthcare science. She is simply inspiring. She says the University of Life has inspired her passion and her enthusiasm shines through. We loved her mantra: Leadership happens one conversation at a time. That’s a golden nugget. She has raised profile of leadership for the scientists of the future and influenced lives of many. ”

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



**Bait Abdul**, HCS apprenticeships coordinator for London and KSS, NHS England for his outstanding work in encouraging stakeholder engagements and facilitation of HEE regional apprentice leads, Trust apprentice leads, and Trust Lead Healthcare Scientists.

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## FINALIST



**Accelerated Graduate Training Programme Team** at Viapath which offers recent biomedical science graduates the opportunity to become HCPC registered within just eight months through a dedicated training programme, during which trainees are not expected to work.

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# BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD SPONSORED BY IBMS



## WINNER

**Dr Guy Orchard** Consultant Grade  
Biomedical Scientist

Viapath

Dr Orchard is an exceptional biomedical scientist. He strives to share and apply his subject matter expertise to advance practice in an innovative and impactful way. He has devised and patented two new pathology products and a third patent is pending. He makes a difference to patient care every day.

The St John's Dermatopathology Unit at St Thomas's Hospital is a centre of excellence that handles the most complex and challenging dermatopathology cases. Dr Orchard identified that the service could be improved if the accuracy of tissue dissection sampling could be increased. He also felt that better results could be achieved for complex hard tissue tumours if a different and gentler approach was taken to tissue softening. Dr Orchard set about devising a new tissue softening agent (CellSoft) and a new piece of equipment for the fine slicing of dissection samples. He went on to devise a fine tissue slicing mechanism (TruSlice and TruSlice Digital) that enabled the consistent sampling of tissues down to 1mm accuracy. This enables greater consistency of tissue processing.

**Green point:** During the development of CellSoft a key objective was to create a new reagent with all of the positive attributes of other current comparable reagents but with a reduced level of toxicity for the users and hence the environment.

Current commonly used hard tissue softening agents employ a combination of phenol and acids, which are carcinogenic and corrosive respectively. The new patent agent Cellsoft contains neither but instead employs a formula based on soaps and detergents that after use can be discarded into the main waste water system. In respect of the users, Cellsoft reduces potential respiratory and skin allergy issues and can be used by pregnant scientists unlike phenol compounds which present with undesirable health and safety risks and require dedicated disposal procedures. This creates additional solvent storage considerations and invariably introduces increased costs for its assured environmentally safe disposal.

“ Here is a very self-effacing individual who is doing excellent things. He is skilled at developing his staff and is having a great impact on patient care. Here is an example of how he applied his scientific approach to tackle known problems. ”

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



**Dr Sarah Pitt**, principal lecturer at the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences at University of Brighton, chief examiner in virology, IBMS. An exceptional biomedical scientist who motivates her students to pursue biomedical science: 'It's difficult to imagine how my career would have turned out without Sarah's support.'

[S.J.Pitt@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:S.J.Pitt@brighton.ac.uk)

## FINALIST



**Dr Alison Watt**, biomedical scientist/ergonomist, Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) who has over 40 years' experience in transfusion, culminating in a leading role in haemovigilance, recently completing a PhD applying Human Factors and Ergonomics (HFE) to the transfusion process, making recommendations about improvement in patient safety in blood transfusion.

[JarobeHHF@outlook.com](mailto:JarobeHHF@outlook.com)

SHOT is the UK independent professionally-led haemovigilance scheme, and our mission is to improve patient safety in blood transfusion. Further information, Annual SHOT Reports, and other learning resources can be found at: [www.shotuk.org](http://www.shotuk.org)



**FIND OUT MORE**  
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# THE AHP CLINICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD SPONSORED BY ALLIED HEALTH SOLUTIONS



## WINNER

**Andy Swinburn**, Associate Director Paramedicine

Welsh Ambulance Services Trust

Andy joined the Welsh Ambulance Service in 2016 as assistant director of paramedicine, having worked as an advanced paramedic practitioner for several years. Andy's vision was for an ambulance service to maximise the potential of this advanced level of paramedicine, providing the best care to patients, managing more cases in the community and reducing unnecessary conveyances to emergency departments. Andy's work in developing this team of APPs was recently recognised when he was awarded Health Care Professional of the Year at the inaugural Welsh Advancing Healthcare Awards event.

Through his enthusiasm, leadership and managerial capability, he successfully set up a pilot for the APP rotational model in North Wales in November 2017. The success of the pilot in terms of staff satisfaction and patient outcomes was phenomenal. Andy subsequently led on negotiations to secure funding for the APP rotation and increase significantly the number of places for MSc courses for paramedics in the Trust. This required detailed negotiation with commissioners, Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and academic leads across Wales to establish a new, condensed Masters course at three universities. This will establish the Trust as the leading employer for APPs with numbers increasing to over 70 in 2020.

**Green point:** The Trust is fully aware of the potential impact its operation has on the environment and takes an Annual Sustainability Report to the Board. It is a national service and the fleet of ambulances use a considerable amount of fuel. However, the Trust has led the way on environmental issues and for the past two years has been the only ambulance service in the UK to hold the ISO14001:2015 accreditation.

These principles are embedded within the clinical team culture. They have led the way with increased use of VC meetings, reducing mileage and are now piloting use of electric vehicles within the fleet.

“ Great green credentials and totally patient focused. This is a superb example of the power of resilient leadership to change the narrative. The whole system has moved to a place where they are now saving more lives. What an extraordinary achievement – Andy stuck to his beliefs, building leaders around him. ”

## FINALISTS



**Amanda Atkinson**, locality lead paediatric occupational therapy, Swansea Bay University Health Board who created a timely equitable access to occupational therapy assessment and interventions, putting children at the core and working with and empowering the carers, parents and teachers to support the child.

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**Jon Lee**, professional lead physiotherapist and AHP Forum chair, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust who sought to create a modern therapies service, delivering high quality, cost effective care, promoting and exploring innovative thinking while prioritising the development of staff.

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# THE COUNCIL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS RESEARCH (CAHPR) AWARD FOR EVALUATING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PRACTICE



## WINNER

### Rapid Response Children's Physiotherapy Team

Lincolnshire Community Health Services

### The impact of a 12 month rapid response respiratory pilot for children with complex physical disabilities

This children's rapid response respiratory service provides specialist assessment, treatment and management of children with complex physical disabilities with additional respiratory problems in the community to avoid hospital admissions.

The pilot was evaluated at 6 months by carrying out a parent satisfaction questionnaire and evidencing the financial savings. 127 children were referred and financial savings were able to be calculated in three ways. Every urgent contact for an acute chest infection was RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated to show who parents would have called had this service not been available and financial savings were calculated from this.

The impact of early intervention through preventative work was calculated from comparing the cost of hospital admissions and A&E attendances from the 12 months pre service to the first 6 months data since implementation.

The service has also been heavily involved with children who have not previously had any hospital admissions for chest infections but due to the level of involvement received it is felt that their chest presentation would have deteriorated leading to likely hospital admission.

“ This is a fantastic example of strong evaluation leading to a fully commissioned service with a sustainable future. It shows how to take healthcare to the community and focus on long-term management of patients alongside a rapid response service. Its co-produced and co-designed; transferable and scalable. ”

## FINALISTS



**Richard Webber**, enhanced role physiotherapist and **Cheryl Grindell**, physiotherapy researcher, Physioworks, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust, SCharr, University of Sheffield for their work on Talkback, thematically linked educational resources and interventions to help patients and clinicians better explain and understand back pain.

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[cheryl.grindell@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:cheryl.grindell@sheffield.ac.uk)



**Nicola Wood**, clinical specialist and **Sarah Brown**, clinical services manager, Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare Trust for their research into a Community Sleep System Service for inform service design and implementation to help children with cerebral palsy and their carers.

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Allied health professionals & healthcare scientists

# CHROMA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NEUROREHABILITATION

## WINNER

**Claire Edwards**, Specialist Paediatric Physiotherapist &  
**Jonathan Fever**, Neurologic Music Therapist

The Portland Hospital, HCA Healthcare

### Benefits of collaborative working with children post Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy

Children post-SDR surgery require intensive physiotherapy, often resulting in fatigue and frustration and so reducing session compliance. They had worked with music therapists with other patient populations with great success and decided to trial joint sessions post-SDR. They found this increased engagement levels, promoting better compliance and motor skill recovery.

Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) is an innovative surgery that aims to eliminate lower limb spasticity in children with cerebral palsy by cutting sensory nerve rootlets in the spinal canal. This enables children to develop more normal motor patterns, have reduced pain and reduced orthopaedic surgery later in life. This specialist physiotherapy team provided intensive rehabilitation over a three-week period following this surgery, as well as programmes for continuing rehabilitation in the community. The children are aged three to ten years, and due to the unique nature of this surgery, they are very weak afterwards and their legs can feel quite strange as they learn to move again. With this intensive setting, unique presentation and young age of the children, there are often occasions when the child can become very fatigued and frustrated, resulting in disengagement. They collaborated with the music therapist in order to help with distraction, and have found great improvements in motivation and participation.

**Green point:** They use existing resources and therapist skillsets and have minimal impacts upon the environment. By maintaining this as the main focus of their intervention they are modelling environmentally sustainable activities and approaches to rehabilitation to parents i.e. roleplay, musical interaction and shared narrative.

Additionally, any equipment and instruments that used are built to last. These therapeutic objects are not single patient use and infrequently need to be replaced. If they recommend any equipment for ongoing use at home, they encourage families to access this through their local NHS provider who can usually loan them equipment, or they recommend equipment that can grow with the child and potentially be enjoyed by the whole family.

“ The team working between physiotherapy and music therapy was inspiring, using music as a treatment modality but making it very friendly and engaging after complex surgery. They have well thought out placements and use of sessions to enhance motivation and engagement ”



## FINALISTS



**Jacqueline Sharp**, service lead physiotherapist, Inpatient and Specialist Services; **Emma Cooke**, head of physiotherapy services, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board for their living well programmes within a community neurological rehabilitation service.

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**Alice Hardy**, neurologic music therapist, The Wellington Hospital, HCA Healthcare for her sensory music therapy group for patients in Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness, to increase responsiveness and interaction; a by-product has been increasing appropriate social interaction between nursing and care support staff, family members and patients.

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Allied health professionals & healthcare scientists

# THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S AWARD FOR IMPROVING QUALITY: MEASURING AND DEMONSTRATING IMPACT



## WINNER

**Christina Maclean**, Head of Rehabilitation &  
**Fiona Nolan**, Cardiothoracic Physiotherapy Lead

Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Clydebank, Glasgow

### Mobilisation of patients on femoral intra-aortic balloon pump

This project developed and implemented a protocol to allow the safe mobilisation of patients on femoral intra aortic balloon pumps (IABP) while awaiting heart transplantation surgery. This optimised patients pre operatively and improved post operative outcomes.

Existing UK practice restricts patients on IABP from mobilisation due to the position of the canula and risk of decreased augmentation. This resulted in patients remaining on bed rest for prolonged periods, in one case over 6 months while on the IABP device when bridging to heart transplantation. This leads to muscle atrophy, reduced exercise tolerance, weight loss, restriction in respiratory muscle function, longer post-operative recovery and increases the risk of intra-operative mortality. The team with a focus on pre-habilitation met with the MDT and clinical governance team to explore the proposal. The team developed the protocol with robust risk assessment and safely mobilised the first patient in March 2019. This is now standard practice at the hospital for this cohort of patients.

“Here is a big vision impeccably delivered through careful governance and of course, persuading the cardiologists. It is highly transferable – an important and innovative development.”

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



**Nicholas Barlow**, consultant radiographer at Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust which now has the highest percentage of plain film reports produced by radiographers in the world as a result of a new consultant-led service within the AHP workforce.

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## FINALIST



**Gemma Taylor**, advanced physiotherapy practitioner and **Andy Tanagho**, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, NHS Ayrshire and Arran whose work in emergency and trauma settings has transformed the management of patients with Cauda Equina Syndrome

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# THE GUARDIAN AWARD FOR AHPs WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

The  
Guardian

## WINNER

**Paul Scallan**, clinical lead of occupational health services, IPRS Health, employee rehabilitation and wellbeing services

IPRS Health

### IPRS Health Mental Health Self-Referral Service

The team designed and launched a mental health self-referral portal to reduce waiting times, where individuals felt confident to seek support. They then received support treatment with input from a face-face clinician in a UK-wide network or via an App using video and voice call remote cognitive behavioural therapy.

The feedback from clients and their employees was that the existing system had too many steps from the point at which someone had the motivation to seek support to receiving an assessment. By working with OH and the HT provider, they successfully created a safe and effective self-referral portal for employees to use. They used multiple key stakeholders to help shape what the self-referral form contained and that it was safe, compliant with data protection, GDPR and consent.

**Green point:** The self-referral service indirectly provides a positive impact on environment sustainability. It provides a digitalized “Paper Free” referral option. Through ensuring a paperless pathway they have been able to future proof the service in enabling less paper waste. The portal page also provides contact details and links to other services that in the past have been made available via leaflets and posters, so these links again cut down the need for paper-based advertising.

“ This is an excellent example of responding to the needs of the patient by increasing speed of access to service while maintaining anonymity. It makes excellent use of technology to make it easier for the patient. ”

## FINALISTS



**Nicky Thomas**, professional lead occupational therapist and **Zena Bennett**, vocational champion occupational therapist at **Hywel Dda University Health Board** for their pioneering project to provide individual placement and support for young people with experience of psychosis to access employment, education or training.

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**Ali Coles**, art psychotherapist, **Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust** where art psychotherapy groups for adults with complex mental health difficulties are sited in museums, using the exhibitions to inspire self-reflection – a setting that encourages social inclusion, a sense of being valued and therapeutic relationships.

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2020 United Kingdom  
Advancing healthcare awards  
Allied health professionals & healthcare scientists

# THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH



## WINNER

**Oliver Williams**, Speciality Registrar in Public Health &  
**Cheryl Williams**, Principal Public Health Practitioner

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

### Staying Steady Schools: intergenerational falls awareness

This project aims to raise awareness, increase knowledge of falls risks and risk reduction, and the services and support that are available for those at risk. It creates the opportunity for shared learning, socialisation, interaction and collaborative links between health board, schools, universities and communities.

In the UK one-third of over 65s fall at least once each year rising to 50% over 80. The previous pathway focused on those people who have already fallen. While secondary prevention and intervention is important there is a cohort of our population who are moving into the high risk category who could either avoid a fall or minimise the consequence.

This project is designed to provide a population based approach to falls awareness and prevention. It is intergenerational and uses children supported by university students to present information to older adults on fall risks and prevention. Following a pilot, all schools in Cardiff and the Vale were invited to participate. Schools then invited older adults to attend the information session that the children delivered. University students worked with each school to help the children prepare the sessions.

All attendees were provided with information bags by the children. Children also

completed a pre-talk questionnaire with the attendees. The presentation was led by the children giving advice on falls risk reduction, demonstrating six strength and balance exercises, how to measure and check walking aid and not keeping falls a secret.

**Green point: One of the longer term benefits of a population based approach to falls prevention means that any reduction in injury, attendance or admission into health or care services will assist in delivering more sustainable services in the future. The reduction of burden of disease on society will enable people to live longer and healthier lives. Frailty should not be an inevitability of ageing.**

“ This is a stunning project, thoroughly embedded in the community, truly sustainable – it could roll out across the world. The intergenerational and multi-professional approach has huge possible and good unintended consequences. It’s partnership working tapping into the whole community, ”

## HIGHLY COMMENDED



**Myra Robson, Elaine Miller and Emma Brockwell**, specialist pelvic health physiotherapists who established a collaborative campaign, called Pelvicroar, with the aim of breaking down taboos, promoting pelvic health and educating health care professionals and individuals by sharing, learning and working on social media.

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## FINALIST



**Linda Hicks, podiatrist and Kate Mackay, Atrial Fibrillation programme lead, County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust**, Academic Health Science Network for the North East and North Cumbria for their Save a Life, Stop a Stroke project where podiatrists carry out opportunistic screening of irregular pulses during annual diabetic foot checks.

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# NORTHERN IRELAND'S MAXIMISING RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS



## WINNER

**Suzanne Kennedy**, Team Lead physiotherapist

Northern Health and Social Care Trust

### A Good Call for BACK pain patients - new telephone clinics manage 97% of spinal referrals

The waiting time to see a Spinal Orthopaedic Consultant in Northern Ireland in 2019 was over 4 years with around 10,000 patients on the waiting list. Approximately 1,300 referrals were re-directed to the Orthopaedic Assessment Service for a telephone assessment. The aim was to cut the waiting times in secondary care by reducing inappropriate referrals. Telephone clinics were set up with an appointment time of 15 minutes as opposed to 30 minutes for a face to face assessment. Patients were assessed on their symptoms, previous diagnostics, any red flags or serious pathology and a management plan was agreed. If needed, a face to face review was booked and they were reinstated at their original position on the list if surgery was required.

The Service managed 97% of patients with only 3% returned onto the spinal surgical list to see a consultant. This is an effective use of clinical time, and significant cost savings. A patient satisfaction survey showed most patients were grateful for the telephone call after waiting so long. The outcomes were 45% discharged, 8% referred to pain service, 9% referred to physiotherapy, 1% referred for nerve root injection, 24% booked for face to face review, 8% no contact, 2% self-discharged, 3% returned to Consultant Care.

Green point: Exercise is the best way to manage spinal pain so all patients were encouraged to increase their activity with an emphasis on using outdoor space and natural surroundings. This will have a long-term positive impact on physical and mental well-being and reduce the likelihood of symptoms reoccurring. The carbon footprint was reduced as 1,300 patients did not have to travel for their appointment by car or public transport. Telephone consultations could be considered as an alternative for patients particularly where large geographical areas are covered or in rural communities with limited public transport.

“ They streamlined the patient pathway, and taking responsibility for the service they made a real difference. The legacy is that the service now has the built-in confidence to look at things differently and make the changes as they are needed. ”

## FINALISTS



**Cheryl Mackin**, oncology dietitian and **Kar-lee Brown**, clinical site specialist radiographer, **Belfast Health and Social Care Trust** for their project FeedNG: an outpatient nasogastric feeding service for head and neck cancer patients involving AHPs and supporting healthcare professionals, combining resources, expertise and skills to ensure best possible care for patients.

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**Carolyn Greer**, specialist speech and language therapist, **South Eastern and Social Care Trust** for her work on setting up Northern Ireland's first SLT ENT parallel clinic — a time for vocal change. The SLT manages the patient in place of the ENT doctor. It means no further waits for treatment, a one stop clinic to enable improvement from day one and its a first for Northern Ireland.

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# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR JUDGES

**Jenny Keane**, Department of Health NI | **Denise Nixon**, Department of Health NI | **June Davis**, Allied Health Solutions | **Carolyn McDonald**, Scottish Government | **Laura Charlesworth**, Public Health England | **James Gore**, Faculty of Public Health | **Andy Pickering**, NHS Employers | **Grahame Pope**, University of Nottingham | **Dan Thomas**, Chroma | **Ruth Crowder**, Welsh Government | **David Brindle**, The Guardian | **Hedley Glencross**, IBMS | **Malcom Robinson**, Harvey's Gang | **Dominic Harrington**, Viapath | **Karen Stewart**, Scottish Government | **Lynda Rigby**, IBMS | **Debra Padgett**, IBMS | **Jo Young**, Health Education England | **David Wells**, IBMS | **Katrina Kennedy**, Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT | **Claire Marshall**, NHS England | **Elaine Cloutman Green**, Great Ormond Street | **Andrew Langford**, BAMT

