

Awards Nomination Form

Please complete one form per nomination.

If you wish to nominate for multiple award categories, you must submit a separate form for each.

Before completing this form, please ensure you have read the [terms and conditions](#).

How it Works

Nominations statements should contain **no more than 500 words**.

Nominations will be collated by the Awards Administrator and forwarded to the Awards Panel.

The Awards Panel will review all nominations that meet the criteria for this category and agree their final three nominators. There will be one outright winner and two Highly Commended awards on the night. In the event of a tie, the head judge will have the casting vote.

All nominators will be informed if their application has been successful or not.

The Awards Panel is made up of three independent judges, plus a guest judge representing the relevant category.

** Indicates required question*

1. Email *

Nominee Details

2. Eligibility Confirmation – Local Authority Registration *

Check all that apply.

I confirm that the person or team being nominated works at a facility registered with East Sussex County Council (not Brighton & Hove).

3. Name of Nominee / Team *

4. **Job Title ***

5. **Number of Years in Role**

6. **Name of Home / Care Service ***

7. **Address of Home / Care Service (including postcode) ***

8. **Nominee Phone Number ***

9. **Nominee Email Address ***

10. **Please confirm that the nominee is available to attend the awards evening***  Dropdown*Mark only one oval.* Yes No Don't Know**Award Categories**

11. Select Award Category *

 Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Ancillary Worker / Team Award *Skip to question 12*
- Aspiring Talent Through Learning & Development Award *Skip to question 13*
- Care Leadership Award *Skip to question 14*
- Care Newcomer of the Year *Skip to question 15*
- Care Worker of the Year *Skip to question 16*
- Complex Care Award *Skip to question 17*
- Excellence in Adult Social Care Nursing *Skip to question 18*
- Hidden Gem Award *Skip to question 19*
- Innovation in Social Care Award *Skip to question 20*
- International Excellence in Social Care *Skip to question 21*
- Outstanding Contribution to Social Care *Skip to question 23*
- Outstanding Unpaid Contribution to Social Care *Skip to question 24*

Ancillary Worker / Team Award

Important criteria for this award

- Demonstrates how they show respect to clients/residents/service user’s and treats them with dignity.
- Demonstrates treating people clients/residents/service users as individuals.
- Demonstrates that they provide an excellent service to clients/residents/service users.
- Demonstrates using initiative within their role in supporting clients/residents/service users. (Provide an example of any initiatives that have been implemented)
- Demonstrates how they take pride in the support that they provide to clients/residents/service users.
- What feedback has been received from clients/residents/service users and other relevant bodies in relation to the nominee.

Eligibility

- Cooks/Chefs
- Cleaners/Housekeepers
- Handyperson
- Activities co-ordinators
- Administration Assistants

12. **Nomination Statement (500 words max)**

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Aspiring Talent Through Learning & Development Award

Award Description:

This award celebrates individuals, teams, or organisations who are passionate about learning and development in adult social care – including apprentices, students, early-career professionals, and those who support their journey.

Open to any person aged 16 or over – up to mature learners with standout aspiring talent, who is currently studying a social care related course/qualification across the academic spectrum, on placement, work experience or engaging in recognised further study to progress their career.

It recognises those who champion innovative approaches to training, mentorship, and career progression, and who are actively building a skilled, confident, and future-ready care workforce.

Nominees may include:

- **Aspiring professionals** such as apprentices, students or newly qualified workers who show exceptional promise as the next generation of social care leaders.
- **Mentors, educators or teams** leading and delivering high-quality learning and development.
- **Care services or partnerships** creating meaningful progression pathways and nurturing emerging talent in the sector.

Nomination Criteria – Nominees should demonstrate how they meet any/all the following:

1. **A strong commitment to continuous learning and development**
2. **Evidence of innovative approaches** to training, mentoring or workforce development
3. **Demonstrable impact on personal growth** – either their own, or the development of others
4. **Inspiring and supporting others** to pursue careers in care
5. **Contribution to improving service quality** through skills development
6. **Successful partnerships** with education or training providers
7. **Creative use of apprenticeships, placements or progression schemes**
8. **Gone above and beyond to give back and positively impact their college, workplace, or community** they have done something exceptional which makes them stand out
9. **Promotion of social care as a rewarding career choice**
10. **Demonstrating leadership potential** as an aspiring or emerging talent
11. **Embedding learning as a core part of culture** in a team or organisation

13. **Nomination Statement (500 words max)**

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Care Leadership Award

Description

This category will celebrate a strong, dynamic and passionate individual in a leadership role who demonstrates exceptional leadership qualities, inspires their team, and drives positive change within the organisation.

This stand out individual must be an impressive care leader, easily recognisable as a visionary leader who has effectively driven change and innovation within the organisation. Nominations are encouraged from all stakeholders including colleagues, service users, friend and families and other professionals.

Criteria

- Individuals must demonstrate:
- That they are an excellent role model
- A high level of expertise, exceptional skills in leadership and management, great support for colleagues and a positive commitment to person centred support
- An understanding of the importance of promoting the emotional, physical, psychological and social health of the people who they support and how vital effective care leadership is in the provision of this service
- Confident in making strategic decisions that positively impact the organisation's growth, while fostering a value-based, collaborative and adaptable environment.
- Exceptional skills in managing and implementing complex, changing social care policy.
- Commitment to ongoing professional development and ethical person-centred practice as well as how they foster a culture of learning, support and development in the service.
- Exhibits the ability to connect and develop relationships that support a high level of trust and credibility.
- Inspires others to work collaboratively and creatively.

Eligibility

This award is open to leaders from all areas of care and support for people within the sector including manager, owner, director, executive from a large or small residential, home care or specialist service.

- Ideally, a minimum of two years in the role.
- Lead a service with a good or outstanding CQC rating.

14. **Nomination Statement (500 words max)**

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Care Newcomer of the Year

Description

This award seeks to acknowledge and celebrate a new member of staff who ideally commenced and remained in employment in the care sector within the previous 12 months and who is already delivering the very best standard of care. The individual can either be returning to the sector after at least two years away or be joining for the first time; excels in their personal and team roles, and exhibits enthusiasm, professionalism, confidence and a shining commitment to their on-going career development.

Criteria

- Can demonstrate if they were able to transfer existing skills to their new career (either from volunteering, life skills or previous job).
- Show a good understanding of the role they now have.
- Demonstrate by examples their understanding of the word "Care" and demonstrate excellent people skills.
- Can explain what is meant by good practice in their chosen role. A commitment to completed or already completed The Care Certificate training module.
- Is aware of a range of choices users of services may have.
- Demonstrates empathy and responsiveness, especially in emotional situations.
- Willingness and determination to take up opportunities to improve knowledge in a range of settings.
- Commitment to their on-going career development.

Eligibility

- A new member of staff who joined the care sector in East Sussex within the previous 12 months.
- Can be new to care or rejoining after an absence of two years away.
- Excels in their personal and team roles.

15. **Nomination Statement (500 words max)**

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Care Worker of the Year

This award recognises the significant role of the Care Worker in consistently providing a high-quality standard of support for people living in their own home, supported living or living in residential care.

Care Workers are widely acknowledged as being the lifeline of the sector, performing not only a rewarding role, but also a challenging one. Despite facing long hours, unsociable shifts, and modest pay, they selflessly put the needs of others before their own. The pandemic laid bare their extraordinary commitment, as they continued to serve with untiring dedication, often sacrificing precious time with their own families to care for those in need. This award is a heartfelt salute to their compassion, resilience, and dedication to making a difference in the lives of others.

This standout care worker should be able to demonstrate dedication to the role, awareness of colleagues and have embraced the opportunities for career development through training. This individual should not only be able to pass the 'Mum, Dad' test but as that standout care giver they are worthy of this accolade and a true ambassador for care workers in East Sussex.

They should be consistently delivering outstanding support to residents/clients, understanding the profound importance of treating each person as a unique individual and offering a personalised service that respects their autonomy and empowers them to remain in control of their own lives.

Criteria

- Consistently gives an excellent service to residents.
- Understands and demonstrates treating each person as an individual by fostering independence (personalised service) in every interaction.
- Allows the person to make their own decisions and stay in control of their own lives wherever possible.
- Encourages people to achieve their fullest potential and helps people to be more independent wherever possible.
- Implements the principles of respecting individuals right to privacy and dignity.
- Involves clients and their relatives/carers in the development of their care (where agreed).
- Has a commitment to personal development and seeks out opportunities to absorb and expand their knowledge and skills. For example: training courses of all types, reading guidance and good practice guides, using toolkits, shadowing, attending workshops and study days, using e-learning.
- Uses their own initiative to support client/s and the service i.e. this individual has exceptional ability to use their initiative, proactively seeking ways to enhance the lives of their clients and improve the service. (example).
- Demonstrates adaptability, alertness and responsiveness to the people they care for, ensuring that they are always attuned to the needs of those they care for.

- Work seamlessly as part of a close team, supporting their colleagues and caring for their wellbeing.
- Demonstrates abilities that typify qualities needed in a great care worker such as: compassion, kindness and empathy. Their passion for making a positive difference in the lives of others shines through in everything they do.
- Has examples that exemplify how the nominee has 'gone beyond the call of duty / that extra mile' in making sure their clients receive the support they need, when they need it most.

Eligibility

- Is currently employed in an East Sussex service to support people living in their own home, supported living accommodation or people living in residential care.

16. Nomination Statement (500 words max)

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Complex Care Award

This category honours an individual and/or team known for delivering outstanding, comprehensive and effective care for complex health conditions. This Award recognises the delivery of specialist skills within a social care setting that support and enhance the life of people with different conditions, including, but not limited to:

- Acquired brain injury
- Autism
- Dementia,
- Profound and multiple learning disabilities; and
- End of Life care

Key considerations include the integration of multidisciplinary approaches, a patient-centred focus, and successful management of diverse and complex health needs.

This Award will exemplify an individual or Team, who demonstrates the specific skills and compassion required to manage and/ or deliver services that are sensitive to the needs of people with conditions that require additional complex support.

The Nominee/s should have a clear understanding of the condition they support, providing personalised care that respects each individual's uniqueness. They should show how they help individuals maintain their skills and abilities, use effective communication, and address nutritional needs. The individual/team must provide examples of high-quality, outstanding care, demonstrate a passion for improving care or support for that condition, or sharing their learning across a wider team and be adaptable, responsive, and impactful.

Communication, teamwork, and a commitment to improving the quality of life for the individual in their care, should also be evident.

They may also demonstrate how they provide emotional support to families and friends, helping them navigate the challenges of caring for someone who may be going through significant change in their life.

The ideal nominee/s will show a deep commitment to care, offering comfort and guidance to both the individual and their support network in a compassionate, dignified and respectful manner.

Criteria

Please include how [the individual or Team meet the following criteria]

1. They collaborate with the client to design and create the support plan
2. They adapt to meet individual user needs
3. They engage with family, colleagues, or other support networks to ensure outcomes are maximised or communicated for the individual
4. They show understanding, kindness and sensitivity to those they support
5. Their learning, training, qualifications, or accreditations indicate a desire to understand more about the condition they support
6. They demonstrate an understanding of best practice techniques

- 7. They improve the quality of life of those they support for a significant period of time
- 8. They are able to describe what they have done to enhance the care of others
- 9. Commitment to learning and development to enhance their own skills and expertise within their role/s that reflects current best practice.
- 10. Embraces innovation within their specialised area of care.

Miscellaneous impact, please demonstrate how

- Something exceptional, which makes them/the team stand out
- There is a lasting impact through their work

Eligibility

- Open to nominations from all care settings including hospices
- Open to individual's or team award

17. Nomination Statement (500 words max)

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Excellence in Adult Social Care Nursing

Description

The Excellence in Adult Social Care Nursing Award recognises outstanding contributions made by individual nurses or teams in adult social care. This prestigious award celebrates the dedication, innovation, and exceptional leadership demonstrated by nurses working tirelessly to enhance the quality of life and well-being of adults needing care and support.

Social care is often multi-faceted, with nurses managing complex health needs, carrying out assessments, and providing leadership for other staff. Nurses in social care also play a critical role in championing innovation, which we want to recognise and celebrate through this award category.

Criteria:

- **Exceptional Patient-Centered Care:** The recipient(s) demonstrate a commitment to delivering compassionate, person-centred care, prioritising the dignity, autonomy, and preferences of adult individuals receiving care services.
- **Innovative Practices:** The nominee(s) showcase innovative approaches to addressing the complex health and social care needs of adults, leading to improved outcomes, enhanced quality of life, and greater efficiency in service delivery.
- **Leadership and Collaboration:** The nominee(s) exhibit strong leadership skills, inspiring and empowering their team members to strive for excellence. They foster collaborative working relationships across multidisciplinary teams, promoting a culture of teamwork, respect, and continuous learning.
- **Advocacy and Engagement:** The nominee(s) advocate tirelessly for the rights and interests of adults receiving adult social care services, actively involving them in decision-making processes and empowering them to exercise choice and control over their care and support.
- **Impact and Sustainability:** The nominee(s) demonstrate measurable impact and sustainable improvements in adult social care outcomes, contributing to the advancement of best practices and the overall improvement of adult social care services within the community.
- **Working as a team:** Celebrate the team's exceptional ability to inspire and unite the care team, showcasing outstanding teamwork, communication, and collaboration skills. Highlight how the team's infectious enthusiasm and dedication foster a supportive environment, driving everyone towards excellence in care.

Eligibility:

- Nominees may include individual nurses or teams working within adult social care settings, including but not limited to care homes, community care services, domiciliary care, and supported living facilities in East Sussex.
- Eligible candidates must hold a current Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) registration.

- Please demonstrate in your nomination statement how this individual meets the criteria for this category in no more than 500 words.

18. **Nomination Statement (500 words max)**



Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Hidden Gem Award

Description

This award is designed to shine a light on an unsung hero. Unsung heroes are often not noticed or recognised for their contributions, hard work or achievements because they shy away from the limelight; however, the absence of what they do is noticed immediately.

This award category will celebrate those individuals that exist within all our services who merit the title 'Unsung Hero'

This award recognises individuals who excel in their work 'behind the scenes', making a difference to their organisation, their colleagues and most importantly the service users.

This category is open to all job roles and levels including paid employees and volunteers. When nominating someone for this award, nominators will be asked to provide the following evidence which should all be considered by the judges.

Criteria

What makes this person Unsung? Why is their role not as appreciated or noticed as others?

- How long has this person been doing this role?
- What does the nominee do that is beyond the expectations of their role i.e. always puts the individual/client/service user before themselves.
- The nominee's willingness to go the extra mile without expectation of reward, examples required.
- How the nominee makes a consistent positive difference in service users or colleague's lives.
- Why this person excels in their work and is a worthy recipient of this award.

Eligibility

- This person is extraordinary and worthy of an award above others.
- Has been doing the role for a reasonable/consistent amount of time.
- Works Beyond expectation.
- Goes the extra mile without reward.
- Makes a consistent positive difference in service users or colleagues' lives.
- Is a standout 'Unsung hero'

Please set out your statement in no more than **500 words** using the following criteria, why this person should be nominated.

19. **Nomination Statement (500 words max)**

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

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Innovation in Social Care Award

Description:

This award will recognise an individual who has shown exceptional skill in identifying, developing, implementing, using or establishing a new system, product or practice, including digital systems. This new innovation must demonstrate benefits for people who use services, services and staff. This system or product may have been designed to increase the independence of people who use the service or improve their quality of life and must be able to demonstrate the impact it has had.

Criteria:

- Evidence of identifying, developing, using or establishing an innovative product, system or practice.
- Demonstrate how innovation has improved the quality of life of people.
- Demonstrate that the system, product or practice is new and not widely used elsewhere.

Eligibility:

- Currently work in, or have recently retired from, the care sector in East Sussex.
- Have had a project or innovation in the care sector that has taken place in the last 12 months.
- Have had a positive impact on people living within East Sussex

20. **Nomination Statement (500 words max)**

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

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International Excellence in Social Care

Description

This award recognises exceptional contributions from international recruits working within the care sector in East Sussex, as well as organisations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to supporting and integrating internationally recruited colleagues.

International recruits play a vital role in boosting workforce capacity, enriching care delivery through diverse skills and experiences, and fostering a more inclusive and culturally responsive environment. This award celebrates both individual care workers and the services that go above and beyond to ensure internationally recruited staff feel valued, empowered, and set up for success.

Whether through innovative induction programmes, cultural inclusion initiatives, or outstanding individual contributions, this award honours those making a significant impact on care quality, team cohesion, and workforce sustainability.

Criteria

Nominations should provide a detailed statement addressing the following areas:

- **Adaptation and Overcoming Challenges:** Describe the nominee's journey of settling into life in the UK and adapting to care sector practices. Highlight any challenges overcome and the resilience shown.
- **Contribution to Service:** Explain how the individual or organisation has positively contributed to care delivery. For individuals, include dedication and specific achievements. For organisations, outline initiatives that have supported international recruits' success.
- **Impact on Service Users:** Provide examples of how the nominee's work has directly benefited those receiving care, enhancing their wellbeing or experience.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Illustrate how the nominee fosters a strong team culture through excellent communication, collaboration, and support – whether by inspiring colleagues or creating a welcoming and inclusive work environment.
- **Professional Growth and Skills:** For individuals, include efforts to enhance professional skills, training undertaken, and any standout expertise (e.g. elderly care, dementia, disability support). For organisations, highlight opportunities provided for international recruits to grow and thrive.
- **Integration and Inclusion:** Describe how the nominee has integrated into the community and workplace, including learning new customs or languages, and how they've helped others do the same.

Eligibility

- Nominee must have worked in a UK care setting for a **minimum of 12 months**.
- Must be **sponsored by a UK employer** licensed to issue Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) with a **CQC rating of Good or Outstanding**.
- Must hold the appropriate **visa to work in the UK**.

Supporting Documents

If available, please attach supporting documents such as testimonials, recommendation letters, or performance appraisals to strengthen your nomination.

21. **Nomination Statement (500 words max)**

*

Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

22. **Supporting Documents (Optional)**

Please upload any supporting documents that strengthen this nomination – for example, testimonials, letters of recommendation, or performance appraisals.

 *You may upload up to 5 files (PDF, Word / DOC, or image formats). Maximum size per file: 10MB.*

Files submitted:

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Outstanding Contribution to Social Care

Description:

This award recognises an individual who has gone the extra mile and made a long-term outstanding contribution to social care. They have continuously gone above and beyond to make a significant difference to people’s lives and have consistently embedded values around person centred care and strengths-based approaches in all that they do. They have shown innovation and creativity in their approach to care and support and have constantly sought to improve the sector. They have committed a number of years to their role in the sector and must still be working in the sector or recently retired.

Criteria:

- Exceptional commitment to social care: Made a long-term commitment to working in social care, providing excellent care, support or leadership over a sustained period of time.
- Demonstrates and shares best practice: Has a passion for innovation and creativity in their practice and has constantly sought to improve care both in their own service and the wider care sector.
- Making a difference: Have made a significant difference to people’s lives providing them with outstanding care or support or enabled a wider team to do so.

Eligibility:

- Currently work in, or have recently retired from, the care sector in East Sussex.
- Have had projects or activities that have taken place in the last 12 months.
- Have a long-term track record of working in the care sector.
- Have had a positive impact on people living within East Sussex.

23. Nomination Statement (500 words max)

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Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Outstanding Unpaid Contribution to Social Care

Description

The Outstanding Unpaid Contribution in Care Award recognises an individual who is inspirational, goes above and beyond, and empowers others. The Award celebrates the dedication this person has demonstrated the positive impact they have made in the life of a vulnerable person, or contributed to an existing social care service, or advocated for carers generally.

For this Award

- An unpaid carer is someone who cares for a family member or friend who is unable to cope without their support. This could be due to illness, disability, mental health issues, or addiction and who is **unpaid** other than receipt of benefits such as Carer's Allowance.
- A volunteer is someone working in, or alongside, a social care setting and is unpaid.

Criteria

Nominees should be able to show how their efforts have significantly improved the lives of a vulnerable person, supported other carers, or gone above and beyond in their role.

1. They give freely of themselves to benefit others
2. They work with exceptional dedication and enthusiasm
3. They are passionate about what they do
4. They are reliable and commit to regular contribution
5. They have creativity and energy and bring that to work as part of themselves
6. Their contribution is significant in improving lives or services
7. Their contribution has made a significant impact on the lives of people experiencing complex or multiple disadvantages
8. They bring a singular skill that otherwise is not present within the wider team
9. They have a significant impact in a single circumstance, or over a longer period
10. Miscellaneous impact: something exceptional, which makes them stand out

Open to individuals of all ages, the award is for those who have driven meaningful change in the past 18 months without financial reward. Nominees should be able to show how their efforts have significantly improved the lives of a vulnerable person, supported other carers, a service or gone above and beyond in their role.

Please note: this award will be judged solely on written submissions.

24. Nomination Statement (500 words max) *

Please explain why you believe this individual or team deserves to win the award. You may wish to include examples of their impact, dedication, innovation, or the difference they have made to the people they support, their colleagues, or the wider community.

Skip to question 25

Your Details**25. Full Name ***

26. Your Phone Number *

27. Your Email Address *

28. Relationship to Nominee *

 Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Manager / Superior
- Co-Worker
- Customer / Client in Care
- Relative / Friend of Client in Care
- Other Care Professional

Confirmation of Understanding

29. Confirmation of Understanding *

Check all that apply.

I confirm that I have read and understood all of the terms and conditions, guidance, and eligibility criteria.

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