

Friday 24th November 2017
Royal Lancaster London Hotel



Welcome to the Social Worker of the Year Awards

Thank you so much for joining us on this very special evening. It is wonderful to see so many members of the social work community come together to celebrate the profession and recognise outstanding successes and achievements.

Since the awards were established in 2006 by independent social worker Beverley Williams MBE, they have grown to become the most prestigious and highly-anticipated event in the social work calendar. In fact, this year we've broken the record for the most nominations we've ever received!

Social work is about rights, social and personal change through practice that empowers people so that they can 'live a good life'. With record entries, and a large number of entries coming from people nominating their own social worker, the standards this year have been exceptionally high. So, all of those shortlisted for the awards deserve their recognition. The awards are a moment of celebration of such excellence, that we hope will inspire those practicing this difficult profession in these most challenging of times. People who need social work support deserve the very best of the profession. Hopefully tonight will inspire us all to carry the message and examples of great social work out from these awards to develop a profession that always delivers excellence.

We'd like to thank the following people, as without them the awards simply would not be possible...

Thank you to our headline sponsor, Sanctuary Social Care, and our corporate partner, the British Association of Social Workers for your continued support. We would also like to thank our existing category supporters, UNISON, The Open University, Calderdale Council, Barnardo's, Essex County Council in partnership with Servelec HSC, Devon County Council, iMPower, Gloucestershire County Council, Kent County Council and Hampshire County Council, and welcome on board our new supporters for this year – Bradford Council, OLM Systems, Tees Valley Local Authority Children's Services and Social Work Education: The International Journal.

Thank you to our patrons – Tim Loughton MP, Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Baroness Valerie Howarth OBE and Lorraine Pascale who are champions for social workers and the profession.

Thank you to our media partner, Community Care for supporting us since the beginning and our 42 judges who read and reviewed this year's entries, for giving their time and sharing their expertise so willingly.

But most of all we would like to thank and congratulate our finalists. Thank you for your unwavering passion, dedication and commitment and for working tirelessly to achieve the best possible outcomes. Congratulations to you all - you should be very proud of your achievements.

Welcome to the Social Worker of the Year Awards

The Board of Trustees, Social Work Awards Ltd.

From top (L-R): James Rook, Beverley Williams MBE, Rob Mitchell, Peter Hay CBE, Jenni Randall, Joanna Nicolas and Ana Popovici.



Lorraine Pascale

I am delighted to be a patron of the Social Worker of the Year Awards. I spent some of my childhood in care so I know from personal experience that the role of the social worker is so critical and important. I am particularly passionate about raising awareness of fostering and it is vital to recognise those involved at every stage of the process, who have had a positive impact on young people's lives.

Emma Lewell-Buck MP

I am thrilled to be a patron of the Social Worker of the Year Awards. I know first-hand that there are few jobs more emotionally difficult and yet more personally rewarding than being a social worker. It's great that there is now a place that recognises the fantastic and vital work of the social work profession and the many outstanding individual contributions to society.

Baroness Valerie Howarth of Breckland OBE

Social work has been my life and I am committed to ensuring that the profession maintains high standards. I am therefore absolutely delighted to be asked to fulfil this role and hope that I will be able to do more to ensure that the future of social work remains at the centre of Government. The awards play a very special part in contributing to maintaining these goals.

Tim Loughton MP

During my time as Children's Minister and as Shadow Children's Minister for many years before that, I saw first-hand the dedication and compassion with which our social workers care for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, families and adults. So it is a privilege to be a patron of the Social Worker of the Year Awards. It is a cause I hugely respect and I remember well meeting the first winner of the title. The awards do a great deal to recognise the extraordinary efforts of our social workers, who give so much and give up so much to help others.





Justine Greening

I am delighted to give my support to the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017. These awards recognise the outstanding work of practitioners and social work teams who dedicate their lives to protecting some of the most vulnerable children and families in our country.

Social work is a tremendously demanding job. Expectations are high and social workers, right across the country, make a real difference to the lives of children and families. And these awards give us an all too rare opportunity to recognise the crucial role social workers play, day-in-day-out, in communities across the country.

Social workers have a vital job in ensuring vulnerable children and families receive the best possible support to help them overcome the challenges they face and enable them look positively towards their futures. Social workers really do change lives every day and it is hugely important that we celebrate their vital contribution.

I remain committed to supporting social work and social workers themselves to be the best they possibly can be. We must bring the best people into the profession and give all social workers the knowledge and skills they need to carry out this demanding job.

Congratulations to all of this year's incredible finalists, and to those who took part, and I thank you all for your hard work, dedication and passion.

Rt Hon Justine Greening, Member of Parliament
Secretary of State for Education



Lyn Romeo

It's a great privilege to be involved with the Social Worker of the Year Awards once again.

The nominations were, as always, of an exceptionally high standard. This year I sat on the judging panel for the Adult Social Worker of the Year and Adult Team Leader of the Year categories. I was impressed by the hard work, commitment and passion in all the nominations.

These awards are a great celebration of our profession and highlight outstanding social work practice which has made a positive difference to individuals and their families.

As social workers we are privileged to have the opportunity to work with so many individuals and families in various contexts to support them to live the lives they want to lead. We don't often get the opportunity to reflect on the valuable work of our profession and really celebrate what it is we do. That is why I am so delighted that the Social Worker of the Year Awards allows us the opportunity to come together and celebrate our achievements.

It is great to see social workers enjoying the all too rare acknowledgement of the crucial and courageous work they do in communities across the country.

Congratulations to all of this year's finalists.

Lyn Romeo
Chief Social Worker for Adults



Isabelle Trowler

I am delighted to be a judge once again for this year's Social Worker of the Year Awards. I always enjoy getting to read so many enthusiastic nominations – many more so this year than I've seen before – telling us how much great work is being done across the country to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families.

I was privileged to have attended the House of Commons reception this spring celebrating the 2016 winners of the Social Worker of the Year Awards, and I saw how much it meant to the winners to have their hard work recognised and indeed celebrated. In a profession that seldom attracts headlines for its (many) successes, it was fantastic to see the people who work tirelessly to help vulnerable people get a chance to come together and enjoy their achievements.

While I firmly believe social workers should be celebrated all year round for the crucial work they do, the Social Worker of the Year Awards are a wonderful opportunity to put the spotlight on great practice and great people.

I hope everyone has a fantastic evening and I look forward to celebrating with the winners soon.

Isabelle Trowler
Chief Social Worker for Children and Families



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Sanctuary Social Care

We are proud to be headline sponsor of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017.

We are lucky enough to work with many inspiring social workers across the country, often supporting them throughout their entire careers. The level of passion and commitment shown in this profession is something to celebrate and we will do all we can to help social workers gain the recognition they deserve.

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Sanctuary Social Care

Firstly, I would like to say congratulations to all of tonight's nominees; what you have achieved has been truly remarkable and I hope that everyone in this room can take a few moments to sit and reflect upon the positive impact that you have made on a person's life.

We first became involved in the Social Worker of the Year Awards eight years ago and I am proud to have taken this journey alongside Beverley Williams MBE who initiated this wonderful celebration. When we began, it was our aim to grow these awards to become the highlight of the social work sector and I'm sure you'll agree that we have achieved this goal. But it's important to recognise that these awards are not just about this evening. It's not even about the work that you've undertaken this year – it's about the personal impact that you have made upon society throughout your careers; the people that you've helped and the families whose lives have been improved thanks to your tireless efforts.

The Social Worker of the Year Awards have a legacy beyond that of this evening. I honestly believe that it's become bigger than any of us here tonight realise; its opened the doors to help us say "thank you". Whether it's thanking a colleague for the work that they've done, or a quick pat on the back from a manager, these awards have reminded us of the importance of recognising your hard work and dedication, and of taking pride in the work that you do.

So, as well as offering my heartfelt congratulations to everyone tonight, I would also like to say, "thank you".

Thank you to every single person who is working within the social work profession. Your dedication to supporting the lives of vulnerable people and their families is truly heroic and I hope that you understand how much we value what you do.

Good luck to everyone tonight, I hope you all enjoy the evening.

James Rook
Chief Executive, Sanctuary Social Care



“BASW speaks up for me and my profession”

Winston Morson
Social worker

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- An online **CPD data tool** – the easiest way to maintain your training and development record
- **30% discount** at BASW's online bookshop
- A members-only **online social worker forum**
- The chance to discuss and influence **policy** through BASW's network of groups and committees
- Regular **e-bulletins**

* Refer to the website for further information

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British Association of Social Workers

It is an honour for BASW once again to sponsor this celebration of excellent social workers and social work practice.

For over a decade, the Social Worker of the Year Awards has been an important event in the social work calendar and it has grown from strength to strength, as each year more managers and supervisors, colleagues and people using services make the time to nominate social workers and teams that have made the difference.

Social work and social workers make a huge positive contribution to lives every day, but too often this flies under the radar. At this event, we take the limelight and celebrate.

Social work is a rich and rewarding profession, but one that is also highly pressurised and challenging.

The profession is dealing with the pressures of austerity, cuts, increasing demands and the rising expectations of the public and policy makers. The latter is a challenge we want – but we need resources and great organisational conditions to provide the professional social work everyone deserves.

BASW is working hard to help create better professional working conditions for practice everywhere. This is

about investment in services and in social workers, and ensuring the best management and leadership practices become the norm, acting as the seed bed for excellent achievements and progressive profession-led improvements for all.

As a ceremony that recognises sterling individual achievements and strong organisations who have succeeded in balancing the ingredients for great practice, these awards make an important contribution to inspiring the next generation of social workers to create even better services for the future.

With some sections of the media still demonising or ignoring social workers, we must take every opportunity to publicise fantastic social work, support our confidence as a profession and build a positive public narrative about what we do.

Therefore, it is important that we all take a day out of our busy schedules to have events like these, which recognise the outstanding and inspirational work social workers do daily.

Ruth Allen

Chief Executive, British Association of Social Workers



Hampshire County Council

Social work plays an important role in our society. It can be a rewarding profession, helping to repair relationships and look after vulnerable people. It can also be a difficult and demanding job. That's why Hampshire County Council is delighted to sponsor these awards to highlight some of the fantastic work undertaken by social workers across the country.

We are particularly pleased to sponsor the Mental Health Social Worker of the Year Award for the third year running. Too long a hidden illness, good mental health is now being recognised as equally important as good physical health, and with one in four people in the UK experiencing a mental health problem each year, the value placed on those working in this field grows.

As society changes and our population ages, the demand for adult social care is set to increase even further. In Hampshire we receive 140,000 contacts for information, advice and support a year from the

community. Managing this demand is a challenge, but we are in a strong position to meet it. Hampshire County Council is proud of its reputation for real commitment to social care, for innovation and for working in positive ways with stakeholders. We are committed to excellence, and to recognising the vital contribution adult social care practitioners make to society so that those who need care are valued, supported with compassion, and helped to live as independent a life as possible.

We hope these awards will continue to inspire and encourage new entrants to join our profession and support colleagues already working in this vital area to excel even more than they already do.

Graham Allen
Director of Adults' Health and Care
Hampshire County Council



Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Bradford Council are delighted to be taking part in the very prestigious, national Social Worker of the Year Awards and sponsoring the category of 'Raising the Profile of Social Work'. This category is very close to our hearts in Bradford as it mirrors our commitment to raise the profile of professional social work in our city and the surrounding areas.

Bradford is an extremely proud employer of social work and thus we believe in ground breaking and innovative practice which provides the best possible platform for social workers to practice from across the district.

Our Vision 'Home First' aims to set out our ambition and wellbeing in the Bradford District. We have called the vision Home First because we firmly believe that people who need help from social care in Bradford would want us to do as much as we can to make sure that they are supported to stay in their own homes. Social Workers in Bradford support adults to remain in control and

exercise genuine choice regardless of the level of health and social care support that they may require. Being around family, friends and in your own home is the best place to feel happy, healthy and in control of your life. We want everyone in Bradford to have the opportunity to live as long as possible in good health which includes being supported to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Bev Maybury
Strategic Director
Department of Health & Wellbeing, Bradford Council



Hampshire County Council is proud to support the **Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017** and congratulates all the finalists

We hope the **Social Worker of the Year Awards** will continue to be an inspiration, and encourage colleagues in our profession to excel even further than they already do.

Hampshire County Council is contacted approximately 140,000 times a year by people needing care advice and information, supporting 13,000 older people and 2,200 adults with mental health support needs.

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■ The world's first City of Film.

■ National Science and Media Museum, the country's largest visitor attraction dedicated to the science behind the magic of media, including the new Wonderlab gallery.

■ UNESCO World Heritage site, Saltaire village.



Bradford Council is proud to support the Social Worker of the Year Awards

Calderdale Council

Calderdale Council is extremely proud of social work students and is pleased to sponsor this award. It acknowledges exceptional progress of social work students, who have made a wonderful start in their career having chosen to join a truly fantastic profession.

Social work students provide fresh ideas, welcomed challenges, renewed vigour and help set a learning culture. With the right supporting environment social work students thrive, deliver real change and positively impact on the lives of the people we work to support.

Within Calderdale Council, social work students continue to provide exceptional standards of supervised practice delivery. The commitment to their newly chosen profession and the exceptional support of their practice educators and colleagues in universities and colleges have truly enhanced the delivery of professional social work. Many of our student social workers on placement with us choose to apply for posts within Calderdale. We believe this is because of their desire for continuous learning and their value base is matched with that of a strong, positive social work employer, who truly values

the contributions that student social workers have made at the beginning of their careers.

We need the best people possible to choose a career in social work, because we know just how privileged we are to be allowed into the lives of people who require social work support. We also know we have a unique role in upholding human rights, balancing responsibilities and enabling everyone we support to have the best possible opportunities to flourish.

Social work continues to owe its students a debt of gratitude for choosing the profession and for providing outstanding practice as social work students.

Councillor Tim Swift
Leader of Calderdale Council



The Open University

It's a pleasure to be involved with the Social Worker of the Year awards again, which celebrate the achievements of inspiring and dedicated individuals and help give social work the recognition it deserves.

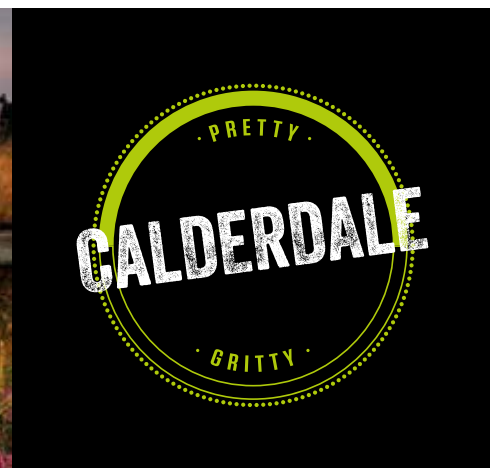
We're fortunate to work in a profession that really does change lives for the better, but it can be difficult to deliver the service we aspire to when budgets are so stretched, when demand is so high – and when there are so many challenges retaining qualified staff.

Personal support is crucial to students succeeding in their learning and professional goals. The Open University model provides a network of support to students on placement including an academic tutor, a practice tutor, peer and employer support – and, of course, the practice educator – to support students in achieving success. Our flexible social work programmes (undergraduate and new postgraduate route) enable support staff to qualify as Social Workers while they continue to work and contribute to service. The key benefit for organisations is the positive impact on staff retention - by supporting and growing the local

workforce, employers gain committed social workers who will stay with them for the long haul.

Practice educators play a vital role in enabling students to succeed and develop into reflective practitioners. We are delighted to sponsor this award which celebrates the huge impact a great Practice Educator can have on a social work student's experience of practice learning. Congratulations to all tonight's finalists and winners and thank you to employer partners for their support to students in practice.

Mick McCormick
Head of Social Work
The Open University



Calderdale Council is proud to support the **'Social Worker of the Year' Awards**.

For more information about living and working in Calderdale visit our website.

www.calderdale.gov.uk



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OLM Systems

Social workers are brilliant individuals. Quite simply they are unsung heroes and we believe that their achievements should be celebrated. It is with this in mind that we took the decision to sponsor a category at this year's Social Worker of the Year Awards.

We have sponsored the category for Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice. Why? A primary part of our business is innovation and therefore when the awards came up, we knew that we had found our category. An opportunity to give back and celebrate those who deserve recognition.

Since day one I have created OLM to make a difference to the health and social care industry. We continue to invest to support social workers in their important role.

The sponsorship of the Social Worker of the Year Awards is our chance to give back. We can celebrate the achievements of those who give so much but receive such little recognition.



Social work is a rewarding, but tough role. Social workers solve more problems in a day than many people deal with in a month. This is often forgotten.

We don't forget and each day work with social workers to create intelligent technological solutions that solve challenges, reduce administration and help them focus on their interactions with clients. We believe that great social work is about the interaction and conversations, not the admin. Social Workers perform a difficult but essential task; our mission is to make their life easier.

Peter O'Hara
Founder and CEO
OLM Systems

Gloucestershire County Council



Now, more than ever, social work plays a prevalent position as part of our society. Therefore, we must ensure that we take time to recognise the daily work that social workers across the country are doing. At Gloucester, our teams are empowered to make defensible decisions, and support our communities to become more active and resilient through the support and commitment of their managers; which is why we are particularly proud to be sponsoring the Team Leader of the Year category. We know and have seen the impact in our own teams of having inspirational leaders. They are the support networks, advisors, listeners, empathisers, supervisors; the person who always offers 'a brew' to talk things through, the one who you can ring at any time and the inspiration for our future leaders.

We are here too, not just as sponsors, but also to recognise the social work profession and of course, the finalists of these awards. We all know that the positive

work that is done is often out of reach of the public eye, but events like this give us an opportunity to recognise the work tirelessly done to ensure positive outcomes for those in the community.

Throughout the night, we are looking forward to hearing of the fantastic work that individuals and their teams have put in across the country; of the lives that they have touched and the individuals that they have supported; and it is with great delight that we will listen and celebrate them, together!

Jess Beach
Principal Social Worker
Gloucestershire County Council

 [@PSWJess](https://twitter.com/PSWJess)

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Adult social care, inspiring our incredible teams to make the difference daily.

Kent County Council

Kent County Council is delighted to be a part of the Social Worker of the Year Awards, celebrating the great work done by social workers in their communities.

Kent is changing and it's an exciting time for us as we turn our ambitions into realities. We work hard to provide our social workers with a fully supportive environment. And we're proud to be able to offer leadership and development opportunities which empower them to make a real difference to children's lives.

We recognise that social work is one of the hardest jobs in the public sector. We often need our social workers to build effective relationships with families in very difficult circumstances and we aim to give them the best tools and support available to enable those relationships to bring about change for children.

This is only possible in a culture which fosters excellence, where our people are encouraged to be creative and share ideas, and where collaboration for

the good of Kent's children happens naturally. We have a very clear vision for our children's services. This is that every child and young person in Kent should achieve their full potential in life, whatever their background.

Our goal is to promote a confident, knowledgeable and well-supported social care team working to the highest standards of practice. Only then can we achieve our ultimate ambition – each child in Kent happy, healthy and safe in a permanent home.

Andrew Ireland
Corporate Director Social Care, Health and Wellbeing
Kent County Council



UNISON

UNISON is very happy to once again be involved in this year's Social Worker of the Year Awards and presenting the 'Team of the Year, Adult Services' award. As the largest trade union for social workers and the wider social care workforce we know the challenges they face and the differences they make to people's lives on a daily basis.

We are really pleased that a number of great social work teams are here tonight and that they are receiving some well-deserved recognition for the work they've done. We also applaud all the other social work teams across the country and the great unsung work they do.

As an organisation built on solidarity and togetherness, UNISON would like to pay tribute to the social work teams that practice effective team working on a daily basis. Great team work, alongside high-quality professionalism is at the heart of excellent public service and social work.

We also applaud the social workers across the country who are taking a stand through UNISON against the significant challenges facing the profession like continued austerity, rising demand for services and growing caseloads. Their fight for better working conditions and genuine development opportunities will result in better services for the public. UNISON hopes that all the attendees have a fantastic evening.

Heather Wakefield
Head of Local Government
UNISON







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with the Social Work Team Leaders that inspire our teams

Kent County Council
Sponsors of the 2017 Team Leader of the Year Award

KCC are proud to sponsor the Team Leader Award. We recognise that Team Leaders motivate and inspire their social work teams and champion best practice, making a real difference to Children's lives. Congratulations to all of this year's finalists.



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£8,001 - £11,000	£6.60
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£14,001 - £17,000	£9.70
£17,001 - £20,000	£11.50
£20,001 - £25,000	£14.00
£25,001 - £30,000	£17.25
£30,001 - £35,000	£20.30
over £35,000	£22.50

UNISON –essential cover for you
UNISON is proud to sponsor the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017

Join online at joinunison.org or call free on **0800 171 2193**

iMPOWER

At iMPOWER, we are privileged to spend so much of our time working alongside some truly inspirational people who choose to spend their lives helping children and young people be safe, aspire and achieve. The magic though often comes when those individuals come together, either by virtue of their roles, or simply because they share a common desire to do the best that they can do for those who are in need.

Setting aside the huge rewards that being a social worker undoubtedly brings, it would be silly not to acknowledge the challenges that the profession also faces as it evolves to meet unprecedented demand for services, reducing budgets as austerity bites, and an increasing prevalence of complex needs affecting both children and families. The level of resilience required by social workers in these times, individually and collectively, to not only survive in the current climate, but to flourish and retain the level of passion to make a difference that is evident every day, is truly inspiring. We have some incredible people working in this

profession, but the real strength comes from when these people pull together to achieve common goals. That is clearly evident when you see some of the amazing things that teamwork has been able to achieve across children's services this year.

To all the exceptional individuals who have come together to work as part of a team to deliver something extraordinary, we salute you.

Olly Swann

Director, Children's Services
iMPOWER



Tees Valley Local Authority Children's Services



The Tees Valley Local Authority Children's Services are delighted to sponsor the Newly Qualified Social Worker of the Year Award - demonstrating our commitment to and investment in the professional development of social workers across the area.

The Tees Valley is made up of five local authorities, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton. It is located in North East England, nestled between North Yorkshire and County Durham.

The area is beautiful and diverse, home to vibrant towns, picturesque villages and impressive historic venues. We have some of the most stunning countryside on our doorstep, as well as impressive coastlines framed by our dramatic industrial heritage, making it the ideal place to work and live.

Tees Valley local authorities provide qualifying social workers with an excellent Assessed and Supported Year in Employment. We have sub regional portfolio

moderation arrangements where workers receive evaluation and feedback on their portfolios from managers in another local authority, bringing a new perspective to their professional development. Newly qualified social workers are protected in their workloads and benefit from mentoring, group supervision, dedicated CPD time and strong management support and oversight.

Social workers who make up the Tees Valley workforce benefit from a friendly, can-do and welcoming culture and those who join us from other areas stay with us. All the local authorities highly value social work, making sure that those most vulnerable in society are protected, valued and supported to better futures. Find out more about the Tees Valley at tvliveworkplay.co.uk

Sally Robinson

Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services
Hartlepool Borough Council (on behalf of Tees Valley Local Authority Children's Services)



Congratulations to all finalists and winners!

iMPOWER

Sponsors of the award for Team of the Year, Children's Services

**The Tees Valley Local Authority Children's Services are
proud to support the Social Worker of the Year Awards.**



For more information about living and working in the Tees Valley visit
www.tvliveworkplay.co.uk



Devon County Council

Devon County Council is pleased to sponsor the Adult Social Worker of the Year award – celebrating the fundamental role adult social workers play in supporting adults to remain healthy, be independent, and keep themselves safe.

Adult social workers empower people to make choices about where and how they live, and ensure their needs are met in a way that matters to them. Working with the adults and their families and social networks, and working collaboratively with other professionals, social workers can make transformational use of resources to ensure best outcomes.

Social Workers also make a key contribution as system leaders in multi-disciplinary teams – supporting colleagues to identify and deliver new ways of working. Strength-based approaches need no introduction here, but social workers are the glue that binds the multi-disciplinary team to make this philosophy a reality for the people we work with.

For each of the finalists and award winners recognised here, there are thousands of social workers across

the country working with people day in and day out to encourage personal and system change – enabling people to live with dignity, and improve the quality of their lives.

This award celebrates all of our social workers; nominees, finalists, and 'unsung heroes'. We celebrate all social workers who work with passion, integrity, commitment, humour, humanity, and resilience.

Devon County Council is delighted to support this award as recognition of outstanding social work practice and the vital contribution adult social workers make to improving people's lives.

Jennie Stephens

Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health
Devon County Council



Barnardo's

Barnardo's believes any child can achieve anything they want to, provided they have someone who believes in them.

The charity remains true to the philosophy of its founder Thomas Barnardo – that every child deserves the chance to fulfil their potential.

Last year Barnardo's worked with more than 272,000 of the UK's most vulnerable children, young people, parents and carers, running 1,033 projects around the United Kingdom, and yet we know we need to help even more.

Thomas Barnardo set up this country's first ever training scheme for child carers to improve the quality of the support they provided, and that pioneering work has morphed today into a multitude of training and support for child and social care workers. That innovative Barnardo's spirit lives on. In partnership with the Local Government Association, we have set up the country's first National Centre of Excellence on tackling Female Genital Mutilation. In Rotherham, we are leading a

multi-agency team to work across the town to support and prevent the victims of child sexual exploitation.

As the UK's leading children's charity, we are proud to work alongside social workers to provide support to the most vulnerable people in society.

Millions of children, young people and families have been helped by Barnardo's over the last 150 years. We couldn't have done that without the huge contribution made by social workers across the United Kingdom. We know that if you believe in children incredible things can happen.

Javed Khan
Chief Executive
Barnardo's



Changing lives in Devon

devon

**Devon County Council
would like to congratulate
all of this year's finalists!**

devonsocialwork.co.uk



Thank you for believing
in children.



Essex County Council in partnership with Servelec HSC

Essex County Council is extremely proud to sponsor the category for 'Championing Social Work Values' at this year's Social Worker of the Year Awards in collaboration with Servelec HSC.

We're serious about social work in Essex and our approach is focused on ensuring that people, their families and carers are supported to live healthily and as independently as possible ensuring safety, dignity and quality of life for those in need of long-term care.

It's fitting that we are supporting an award which celebrates social workers and the hard work, dedication and commitment they demonstrate when championing the values of social work. Our social workers know that delivering high quality social work means replacing traditional service offers that simply manage conditions with new innovative solutions that maximise opportunities for individuals to live their lives well.

Essex is the 'practice universe' for social work. We realise just how vital it is to support our social workers and provide the quality time, training and tools they need to deliver a high quality service. Our highly acclaimed Essex Social Care Academy offers a professional learning culture which prepares them for any challenges they may face. It also creates a platform for them to be change agents, working in an environment where they can really progress their career.

It's important we regularly take time to stop and celebrate all social workers and the valuable role they play in in today's society; the Social Worker of the Year Awards is a fantastic opportunity to do this and I'd like to wish all the nominees the best of luck this evening.

Helen Lincoln

Executive Director for Children and Families
Essex County Council

Community Care

Great social work can be difficult to describe and even more difficult to measure but the impact on a person's life can be immense and long-lasting.

This is because social work is made up of so many intangible elements – an unwavering commitment to ensure someone can take a decision about their own care or life, a determination to find the right intervention to keep a family together, an understanding that it's the little things that really matter.

That's why the Social Worker of the Year Awards are so important.

Amid the high pressure and challenges of juggling complex case work, it's important to stop and reflect on the huge difference the profession makes and this always comes across very clearly in the many testimonials from fellow social workers, colleagues in other professions and of course service users contained in the award entries.

Community Care has been proudly highlighting the difference social workers make for more than 40 years

and providing the tools and information you need to do your job better.

We have changed a huge amount over those 40 years but nothing changes our commitment to provide the support and understanding you need, just as you do for the people you help every day.

We're proud to be the media partner of the awards and I hope tonight reminds you of why you should always be proud to be a social worker. Enjoy the evening.

Ruth Smith

Publisher, Community Care

Essex County Council and Servelec HSC are proud to support the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017



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organisations to attract,
recruit and retain the best
possible team



Mental Health Social Worker of the Year

Supported by Hampshire County Council

This category is open to mental health social workers working in both children's and adult services. This award is for practitioners who are excelling in delivering positive outcomes for their service users and achieving results in a challenging and complex area.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Brendan Clifford**
Capacity4Care
- ◆ **Gerry Nosowska**
BASW
- ◆ **Heather Kent**
Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Jenny Molloy**
BASW

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Andrew Thomas**
London Borough of Croydon
- ◆ **Barbara Cooley**
Essex County Council
- ◆ **Billy Melvin**
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- ◆ **Gareth Benjamin**
Livewell Southwest

Raising the Profile of Social Work

Supported by Bradford Metropolitan District Council

This award recognises social workers who have made a difference in promoting a recognition of the importance and value of social work. The judges were looking for practitioners who were able to demonstrate how they have contributed to enhancing – in their organisations or locally, regionally or nationally – an understanding of social work and the contribution made by social workers.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Mandy Barker**
Hertfordshire County Council
- ◆ **Dez Holmes**
Research in Practice
- ◆ **Hugh McLaughlin**
Social Work Education: The International Journal
- ◆ **Maris Stratulis**
BASW
- ◆ **Rob Mitchell**
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
- ◆ **Sherry Malik**
NSPCC

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Essex Social Care Academy**
Essex County Council
- ◆ **Louise Walker**
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
- ◆ **Sarah Parsons**
Cafcass
- ◆ **Seanna Lassetter**
Birmingham City Council

Student Social Worker of the Year

Supported by Calderdale Council

This award recognises social work students who are surpassing expectations in their practical placements and in their understanding of the theory behind social work practice. Each of the six finalists this year are highly competent, exemplary students.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Daniel Hope**
Practice Educator of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Helen Scholar**
Social Work Education: The International Journal
- ◆ **Jamie McEwan**
Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Jane Lindsay**
Kingston University and St George's University of London
- ◆ **Zoe Betts**
iamsocialwork

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Chelsea Higgins**
University of Hull
- ◆ **Nabeela Talib**
Oxford Brookes University
- ◆ **Joseph Vanlint**
Liverpool John Moores University
- ◆ **Louise Watson**
Manchester Metropolitan University
- ◆ **Suzanne Rowe**
The Open University
- ◆ **Zoe Stanyard**
De Montfort University

Practice Educator of the Year

Supported by The Open University

This category is open to social workers who are involved in mentoring and supervising students and unqualified social workers. The judges were looking for practice educators with the ability to successfully motivate and inspire their students to develop their careers in social work.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Daniel Hope**
Practice Educator of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Jane Lindsay**
Kingston University and St George's University of London
- ◆ **Jenny Molloy**
BASW

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Ali Bell**
Cornwall Council
- ◆ **Amanda Lewis**
Birmingham City Council
- ◆ **Jim Fox**
Shropshire Council
- ◆ **Lynn Lock**
Achieving for Children
- ◆ **Suzannah Rockett**
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice

Supported by OLM Systems

This category recognises outstanding creativity and innovation in a project or campaign carried out by an individual social worker, social work team, department or organisation. It covers both children's and adult services and rewards lateral thinking.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Carol Long**
Young Epilepsy
- ◆ **Dez Holmes**
Research in Practice
- ◆ **Hugh McLaughlin**
Social Work Education: The International Journal
- ◆ **Sherry Malik**
NSPCC

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Family Safeguarding Teams Hertfordshire**
Hertfordshire County Council
- ◆ **Linda Nelmes**
Cafcass
- ◆ **North Kent Children in Care Team 2**
Kent County Council
- ◆ **Virtual Dementia Tour Training Team**
Essex County Council

Best Social Work Employer of the Year

Supported by Sanctuary Social Care

For any local authority, charity or agency employing social workers who can demonstrate excellent practice as an employer in motivating, leading and developing their social work employees. With this year's finalists, it was clear to the judges that each organisation consistently strives to improve outcomes for employees and service users.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Andrew Ellery**
AE Social Care and Education Ltd
- ◆ **Anthony Douglas**
Cafcass
- ◆ **Elizabeth Njenga**
BASW
- ◆ **Parmjit Chahal**
London Borough of Harrow

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Central Bedfordshire Council**
Children's Services
- ◆ **East Sussex County Council**
Children's Services Department
- ◆ **Essex County Council**
Children and Families
- ◆ **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**

Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services

Supported by Gloucestershire County Council

For this award the panel were looking for a team leader who is able to inspire their team in supporting vulnerable adults. Each of the finalists demonstrated an ability to lead by example while consistently achieving high outcomes and meeting targets.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Cath Gormally**
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
- ◆ **Gerry Nosowska**
BASW
- ◆ **Lyn Romeo**
Chief Social Worker for Adults
- ◆ **Margaret Willcox**
ADASS President
- ◆ **Mark Harvey**
Hertfordshire County Council
- ◆ **Simon Williams**
Local Government Association

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Elizabeth Thorpe**
Calderdale Council
- ◆ **Jill Hughes**
Worcestershire County Council
- ◆ **Melanie Wilson**
Livewell Southwest
- ◆ **Nicky Skinner**
Devon County Council

Team Leader of the Year, Children's Services

Supported by Kent County Council

In this category the judges are looking for an outstanding team leader who is working in children's services, demonstrating clear leadership skills and their ability to successfully manage a busy social work team.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Carol Long**
Young Epilepsy
- ◆ **Isabelle Trowler**
Chief Social Worker for Children & Families
- ◆ **Liz Hewitt**
Skylakes Social Work
- ◆ **Paul Ringer**
Spurgeons

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Clare Luby**
Achieving for Children
- ◆ **Hannah Foxcroft**
Ealing Council
- ◆ **Leanne Baines**
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
- ◆ **Marcos Vicinanza**
London Borough of Hillingdon
- ◆ **Sarah Carter**
Essex County Council
- ◆ **Sharon Turner**
Essex County Council

Team of the Year, Adult Services

Supported by UNISON

This category recognises the hard work that is undertaken by teams working with vulnerable adults. The panel were particularly impressed by excellent outcomes that each team is achieving and the positive difference they are making to their service users.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Ali Bulman**
Independent
- ◆ **Natalie Valios**
Community Care
- ◆ **Ruth Smith**
Community Care

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **AMHP Team**
Northumberland County Council
- ◆ **Essex Mental Health Family Group Conferencing Service**
Essex Partnership NHS Mental Health Trust
- ◆ **Hospital to Home**
Derby City Council
- ◆ **Langdon Forensic Social Work Team**
Devon County Council with Devon Partnership NHS Trust
- ◆ **Sexual Exploitation Hub**
Newcastle City Council
- ◆ **West Somerset Community ASC Team**
Somerset County Council

Team of the Year, Children's Services

Supported by iMPower

This award celebrates the achievements of social work teams working with children and their families. The judges were on the lookout for a strong, stable team with high morale and one that consistently delivers high standards of best practice.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Marion Russell**
Cornwall Council
- ◆ **Liz Hewitt**
Skylakes Social Work
- ◆ **Parmjit Chahal**
London Borough of Harrow
- ◆ **Richard Ashdown**
London Borough of Redbridge
- ◆ **Sharon Martin**
National IRO Managers Partnership

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Adoption Team**
Gloucestershire County Council
- ◆ **Coastal and North East Ipswich Child in Care Team**
Suffolk County Council
- ◆ **No Recourse to Public Funds**
London Borough of Waltham Forest
- ◆ **Oldham Phoenix Team**
Oldham Council
- ◆ **Pathway Team**
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- ◆ **The Children in Care Specialist Team**
Essex County Council

Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year

Supported by BASW

The finalists in this category each have less than 12 months' experience working in adult services. The judges were looking for an NQSW with confidence and a variety of skills and they commended each of this year's finalists for their passion and enthusiasm.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Heather Kent**
Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Jamie McEwan**
Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Rob Mitchell**
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
- ◆ **Ruth Hardy**
Community Care
- ◆ **Zoe Betts**
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The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **David Evenden**
Hampshire County Council
- ◆ **Gary Spencer-Humphrey**
Hampshire County Council
- ◆ **Helen Simpson**
Gloucestershire County Council
- ◆ **Lisa Holliday**
Thurrock Council
- ◆ **Nicole Jones**
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year

Supported by Tees Valley Local Authority
Children's Services

This award is open to practitioners working in children's services with less than 12 months' experience. The panel were looking for a practitioner with the potential to become a future role model for the profession. Each of this year's finalists are operating a level above that normally seen from NQSWs.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Annie Hudson**
London Borough of Lambeth
- ◆ **Emily Tiplady-Ead**
Children's Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Maris Stratulis**
BASW
- ◆ **June Thoburn**
Outstanding Contribution Award Winner 2016

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Becky Taylor**
Essex County Council
- ◆ **Dean Radford**
Sheffield City Council
- ◆ **Jack McWaters**
Achieving for Children
- ◆ **Jayesh Rushi**
Lancashire County Council
- ◆ **Senita Kaur**
Doncaster Children's Services Trust
- ◆ **Susan Hook**
Essex County Council
- ◆ **Rosemary Smith**
Ealing Council

Adult Social Worker of the Year

Supported by Devon County Council

This category celebrates the achievements of social workers specialising in services for adults. The panel were impressed with the dedication displayed by all of this year's finalists, their variety of practice and the impact they have on service users.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Mark Harvey**
Hertfordshire County Council
- ◆ **Lyn Romeo**
Chief Social Worker for Adults
- ◆ **Simon Williams**
Local Government Association

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Claire Lillywhite**
Hampshire County Council
- ◆ **Isabel Andrews**
Leicester City Council
- ◆ **Michelle Bradford**
Gloucestershire County Council
- ◆ **Vidhya Biju**
Birmingham City Council
- ◆ **Vicki Ingham**
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Children's Social Worker of the Year

Supported by Barnardo's

This category received the most entries this year and is open to practitioners working in children's services who have made a clear difference to the lives of the children and families that they work with. The judges commended the passion and commitment demonstrated by each of this year's finalists.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Emily Tiplady-Ead**
Children's Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Isabelle Trowler**
Chief Social Worker for Children & Families
- ◆ **June Thoburn**
Outstanding Contribution Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Paul Ringer**
Spurgeons

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Deion Grant**
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- ◆ **Donna Kessler**
Hertfordshire County Council
- ◆ **Hannah Tull**
Essex County Council
- ◆ **Jackie Dowding**
London Borough of Havering
- ◆ **Jason Sedgman**
Central Bedfordshire Council
- ◆ **Mark Davies**
Cheshire West and Chester Council
- ◆ **Nicola Silk**
Rutland County Council
- ◆ **Vanessa Alexander**
Ealing Council



Championing Social Work Values

Supported by Essex County Council in partnership with Servelec HSC

This award recognises social workers working children's or adult services in England who have been champions for social work's value base through their work or other activities. In this category, the judges were looking for practitioners who can demonstrate how they have successfully made a difference in promoting the value-base of social work.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Bianka Lang**
Overall Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Brendan Clifford**
Capacity4Care
- ◆ **Cath Gormally**
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
- ◆ **Elizabeth Njenga**
BASW
- ◆ **Marion Russell**
Cornwall Council
- ◆ **Sarah Read O'Toole**
Skylakes
- ◆ **Sharon Martin**
National IRO Managers Partnership

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Andrew Deller**
Lifecraft
- ◆ **Carolyn Willow**
Article 39
- ◆ **Nikki Mahony**
Hampshire County Council
- ◆ **Rachel Keetley**
Norfolk County Council

Lifetime Achievement Award

Supported by BASW

This award recognises the commitment, dedication and achievements of someone who has worked in the social work profession for more than 20 years. In this category the judges are looking for evidence of the vast difference that an individual has made to service users, and how they have inspired colleagues.

The judging panel for this category were:

- ◆ **Andrew Ellery**
AE Social Care and Education Ltd
- ◆ **Bianka Lang**
Overall Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Judy Cooper**
Community Care
- ◆ **Mandy Nightingale**
Principal Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016
- ◆ **Richard Ashdown**
London Borough of Redbridge
- ◆ **Sarah Read O'Toole**
Skylakes Social Work

The finalists selected are:

- ◆ **Andy Butler**
Surrey County Council
- ◆ **Duart Peacock**
Hampshire County Council
- ◆ **Mark Trewin**
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
- ◆ **Shelagh Butler**
Cafcass

Outstanding Contribution to Social Work

Supported by Community Care

A special award will be presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the social work profession. This award will recognise the achievements of an individual who has helped to improve the reputation and understanding of social work.

The winner of this award has been chosen by the Board of Trustees:

- ◆ **Peter Hay CBE**
Chair, Social Work Awards Ltd
- ◆ **James Rook**
Managing Director, Sanctuary Social Care
- ◆ **Beverley Williams MBE**
Founder, Social Work Awards
- ◆ **Ruth Smith**
Publisher, Community Care
- ◆ **Joanna Nicolas**
Independent Child Protection Consultant and Author
- ◆ **Jenni Randall**
Independent Social Worker
- ◆ **Ana Popovici**
Deputy Director Children's Services, London Borough of Hillingdon
- ◆ **Rob Mitchell**
Principal Social Worker, Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Overall Social Worker of the Year

Supported by Sanctuary Social Care

This award recognises the success of an individual category winner who has shown incredible skill, demonstrated strong social work practice and whose passion, commitment and enthusiasm for social work inspires others around them. The overall winner will be a person who embodies great social work and is a role model for the profession.

The winner of this award has been chosen by the Board of Trustees:

- ◆ **Peter Hay CBE**
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- ◆ **Joanna Nicolas**
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Independent Social Worker
- ◆ **Ana Popovici**
Deputy Director Children's Services, London Borough of Hillingdon
- ◆ **Rob Mitchell**
Principal Social Worker, Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Thanks to our judging panel



Ali Bulman
Independent



Andrew Ellery
AE Social Care and Education Ltd



Annie Hudson
Lambeth Council



Anthony Douglas CBE
Cafcass



Bianka Lang
Overall Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016



Brendan Clifford
Capacity4care



Carol Long
Young Epilepsy



Cath Gormally
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust



Daniel Hope
Practice Educator of the Year Award Winner 2016



Dez Holmes
Research in Practice



Elizabeth Njenga
British Association of Social Workers



Emily Tiplady-Ead
Children's Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016



Gerry Nosowska
British Association of Social Workers



Heather Kent
Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016



Helen Scholar
Social Work Education: The International Journal



Professor Hugh McLaughlin
Social Work Education: The International Journal



Isabelle Trowler
Chief Social Worker for Children and Families



Jamie McEwan
Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016



Jane Lindsay
Kingston University and St George's University of London



Jenny Molloy
British Association of Social Workers



Judy Cooper
Community Care



June Thoburn
Outstanding Contribution to Social Work Award Winner 2016



Liz Hewitt
Skylakes Social Work



Lyn Romeo
Chief Social Worker for Adults



Mandy Barker
Hertfordshire County Council



Mandy Nightingale
Principal Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2016



Margaret Willcox
ADASS President



Marion Russell
Cornwall Council



Maris Stratulis
British Association of Social Workers



Mark Harvey
Hertfordshire County Council



Natalie Valios
Community Care



Parmjit Chahal
London Borough of Harrow



Paul Ringer
Spurgeons



Richard Ashdown
London Borough of Redbridge



Rob Mitchell
Bradford Council



Ruth Hardy
Community Care



Ruth Smith
Community Care



Sarah Read-O'Toole
Skylakes Social Work



Sharon Martin
National IRO Managers Partnership



Sherry Malik
NSPCC



Simon Williams
Local Government Association



Zoë Betts
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