





Sanctuary Social Care

We are proud to be headline sponsor of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2018.

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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Thank you to our judges

Thank you to Sanctuary Social Care for designing the Book of the Night.







Zoe Williamson,
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation
Trust / Northumberland County Council

Zoe Williamson has only been a qualified social worker for five years, but she has already made a considerable difference to the lives of people with mental health difficulties.

Zoe joined Northumberland Council's children's services department in 2013, where she completed her assessed and supported year in employment and demonstrated confidence in handling complex cases and court work. Three years later, she moved to a hospital discharge team within Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - a role that sparked her interest in working with mental health cases. She joined the mental health team in March 2017 and currently works in psychiatric hospitals, supporting patient discharge.

Zoe's colleagues described her as an "absolute asset" to the team and a social worker who is "doggedly person-centred", with remarkable communication skills and resilience in crisis situations. The positive impact she has had was evident in the testimonials from service users, with one young person saying: "I would not be alive to this day if it wasn't for Zoe, I am forever grateful, I wouldn't want anyone else as my social worker."

The judges said they felt moved by Zoe's nomination, adding that the words of this young person "spoke volumes about Zoe's care, compassion, honesty and positive focus".

Supported by:



Silver Award Winners

Lara Box (above), Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Penny Jackson, Darlington Borough Council

“

Carol Long, Chief Executive, Young Epilepsy:

“Zoe is clearly valued by her colleagues and the quality of her approach to her work is well evidenced. She is an asset to the service and as she gains further experience will offer much to service users and colleagues alike.”

Service user feedback:

“I found Zoe to be extremely professional, organised and supportive and could not recommend her highly enough. This is not something I would say lightly.”

Service user feedback:

“She makes me feel better when things get on top of me and I feel like there's no way out. I've only known her since just before I turned 18 but she makes me feel so comfortable around her and is honest which I like because she's so trustworthy. She is the kindest person and always goes above and beyond to help anyone, absolute heart of gold.”

Anna English, Senior Manager, Northumberland County Council:

“Zoe is a natural leader, whom others seek to emulate. Her style of working is always impeccably professional but with a warmth and empathy which make her very approachable.”

Wendy Ashton, Eden Valley Hospice

Palliative care is an emotionally challenging area of social work, but one in which Wendy Ashton has excelled, bringing a flexible and compassionate approach to her practice.

Wendy has worked at the Eden Valley Hospice for the past eight years, where her role chiefly involves discharge and advanced care planning, and providing emotional support to patients and their families. A champion of true social work values, she has done valuable work creating a pathway for patients on the sex offenders register, as well as highlighting the importance of end-of-life care planning for people requiring a public health funeral.

Wendy is passionate about sharing her knowledge and delivers lectures on hospice social work at the University of Cumbria, in addition to supporting students through her role as practice educator. It's clear she inspires those she mentors, with one student commenting: "I now have the confidence to do this work, which I have come to love as much as Wendy."

Wendy's colleagues credited her as a practitioner with a real strength for exploring the sensitive issues that arise in this field, always going above and beyond to support her clients to make decisions and ensuring their final wishes can be met.

Supported by:



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Sharon Martin, Chair, National IRO Managers Partnership:

“I take my hat off to Wendy and all who work to support people with palliative care. A particularly emotionally challenging area of work that must demand a particular level of resilience and the difference made to families, I know from personal experience, is priceless.”

Maris Stratulis, England Manager, BASW:

“Wendy has enhanced quality service standards, been creative and innovative in her work and is compassionate, caring and an ambassador for the profession, in addition to leading by example for students.”

Service user feedback:

“Wendy Ashton was my mum’s social worker after her cancer diagnosis. She was an amazing help and source of comfort both to my mum and myself during what was an incredibly frightening, intense and extremely difficult time. Often when we thought we were losing control, Wendy would have the answers and skills to put us back on track. She gave mum and I great comfort and compassion, her professionalism coupled with her ability to seem like a friend is an amazing attribute that I will always be extremely grateful for.”

Gillian Ward, Clinical Lead, Eden Valley Hospice:

“Wendy continuously strives to adopt a creative and flexible approach to meet the individual needs of patients and families to deliver high level support, advice and guidance.”



Silver Award Winner

Eileen Qubain, Heart of Worcestershire College



Sian Miljkovic,
University of Bedfordshire

Sian Miljkovic is a student who already knows the positive difference social work can make to people's lives. At a young age she lost her mother to cancer and has freely admitted to colleagues how important it was to have a social worker she could rely on at this time.

Sian is clearly motivated in her work by this experience, and by her love for her now-elderly grandparents who she went to live with after her mother's death. She is currently in the final year of a new two-year social work degree, which involves working as a 'family partner' in an early help team and going to university one day a week, plus placements.

Sian's nomination detailed how her skills and emotional intelligence have really come to life in each of the placements she has undertaken, with her practice educator describing her as performing "well in advance" of a social work student at this stage in their degree.

Sian's capabilities have led to her working on complex cases, where her reflective practice has clearly contributed to positive outcomes for the families involved. The judges were moved by how she has really changed lives, going the extra mile in her work and studies.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Sivanesan Ramamoorthy, The Open University

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Zoe Betts, iamsocialwork:

“Very personal motivations this lovely lady has, can be tough to persevere when there are personal challenges in your life. Great to have her in this profession.”

Liz Hewitt, Head of Children's Services, Skylakes Social Work:

“Sian presents as having great communication skills and has developed positive working relationships with families and professionals. It looks like Sian goes the 'extra mile' not only in her studies but also in her placements. Very impressive.”

Service user feedback:

“Just wanted to say thank you for all of your support. When you knocked on my door you literally turned my life around. Finally, there was a woman who understood and knew exactly what to do to help. My eyes have been opened and I feel free. I will never stop being thankful that you were sent our way.”

Helen Wenman, Social Work Lecturer, University of Bedfordshire:

“Throughout her course, Sian has coped well with the numerous and various challenges of this new, work based, two-year social work degree. She takes an active leadership role within the student group, and models her passion for improving her practice and displaying social work values, all of which demonstrates her huge potential to become a highly skilled and effective social worker.”



Karen Maude, Bradford College

Karen Maude is a social worker who does not shy away from a challenge. In the early 1990s, she was one of the first practitioners to put themselves forward for a team responding to the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. More recently, she led on the creation of Calderdale Council's award-winning Gateway to Care service, revitalising the role of community social work and enabling more people to access support than ever before.

Since 'retiring' from local authority life, Karen's approach to mentoring students in her role of independent practice educator has been no different. She is recognised by colleagues and students alike as a "legendary" supervisor who truly walks alongside those she supports, on hand at all hours of the day to answer questions and offer encouragement.

The feedback submitted with Karen's nomination demonstrated how she instills trainee social workers with confidence and determination, with several commenting on how they would not have survived their placements without her genuine care and support.

Most notably, Karen's "unshakeable" human rights ethos is at the heart of all she does and she consistently works to ensure new social workers enter the profession equipped to practice true social work values, promoting people's strengths and upholding their rights.

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Silver Award Winner
Emma Goodall, Cornwall Council

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Glen Garrod, ADASS President:

“One sometimes has the opportunity to either meet or read about someone for whom social work values are hard wired into them at a very early stage. Across a long and varied career Karen has clearly had these and applied them in her own practice and, in helping students.”

Louise Walker, Raising the Profile of Social Work Award Winner 2017:

“An excellent nomination capturing Karen's passion and commitment to the role. Clear evidence of impact for students - with consistent positive feedback.”

Student social worker:

“In a nutshell Karen is amazing. When talking to her it seems like what she doesn't know about social work isn't worth knowing. I honestly feel that I would not have had such a wonderful placement experience without her there to support me. She helped me to understand my potential and the value I have to bring to social work whilst still helping me grow and develop in my practice.”

Bev Maybury, Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing, Bradford Council:

“Karen is social work. She truly believes in the strengths and positivity of the profession and that is what resonates in the support she provides to the students. Karen ensures that her students receive the most comprehensive of practice support, which supplements and enhances their social work education at the College or University. She goes above and beyond in every bit of support she provides.”

People From Abroad Team, Norfolk County Council

This unique partnership between a social work team and a local library has well and truly brought social work practice back into the community, supporting vulnerable and marginalised groups to access a wide range of services and adjust to life in the UK.

The People from Abroad team was set up in October 2016 to respond to the needs of migrants and Syrian refugees. The five team members took a creative approach to this new challenge, deciding to base themselves in the Millennium Library in Norwich, which provides a non-threatening environment for clients and means staff can draw on other volunteer-based services, such as arts and craft, reading, and English exchange groups.

Just over a year after their formation, the team welcomed the first five Syrian families to the city. The links with the library have meant each child could be provided with a special bilingual book bag, and the team were also overwhelmed with donations to furnish accommodation for the families, dropped off at the 47 library branches in the county.

Despite being a new service, the team have already demonstrated how vital their work is in helping this client group to feel safe and settled in their new surroundings.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Super Power Group, Leeds City Council



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Anthony Douglas CBE, Chief Executive, Cafcass:

“By operating out of the central library in Norwich and working so positively with a service user group who do not receive much public support, the service has taken a great risk and is helping some of the most vulnerable people coming into our country gain a foothold in a new more civilised life and existence.”

Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families:

“Really enjoyed learning about this project - social work in action in the community, working alongside libraries. Fab!”

Service user feedback:

“I just wanted to say thank you for finding the flat for the family and visiting them a number of times for various things. They are loving it. It is not often that they say positive things about their houses, but they have been expressing it with the volunteers.”

Corinne Avery, Acting Head of Service – Adult Mental Health, Norfolk County Council:

“This model has embodied Norfolk County Councils Promoting Independence strategy by connecting individuals to community resources and supporting the development of skills to enable individuals to become self-reliant and engaged within the communities where they live.”



Essex County Council

'Serious about social work' is the ethos that underpins Essex Council's approach to supporting its workforce, and this is clearly reflected in the pioneering initiatives the authority has put in place to really enable its staff to learn, develop, and deliver great work.

A notable example is the Essex Social Care Academy, which provides training for staff. It was recognised in a recent Ofsted inspection for its focus on embedding "strengths-based approaches and systemic therapeutic intervention", and contributing to the creation of a highly-skilled workforce. The success of the academy has also led to Essex being the only local authority in the country to have been awarded accreditation from the British Association of Social Workers for excellence in continuing professional development.

The council has also created a stable workforce with limited use of agency staff, which has been in part due to its development of a high-quality Assessed and Supported Year in Employment programme. But there's also an obvious commitment to making staff feel valued, including an annual awards ceremony to recognise achievements - and this has undoubtedly made a difference. As one social work manager commented: "I believe that employees have a real sense of 'family' here and are loyal to the organisation".

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Stockport Family

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Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults:

“This employer has managed to put in place a sustainable and comprehensive approach to supporting social workers across all areas to ensure that children, families and vulnerable adults receive the best possible help.”

Nicky Skinner, Team Leader of the Year - Adult Services Award Winner 2017:

“I’ve gained a real sense of an organisation with a strong commitment to staff learning and development where workers feel valued and have a commitment to putting the person first. Workers have confidence in the Director and the senior management team who are seen as involved and approachable by their staff.”

Bianka Lang - Team Manager, Assessment and Intervention Team Chelmsford & Maldon 1:

“I started to work for Essex County Council in July 2004 as a social worker and have felt supported by my organisation from the start. I was always encouraged to undertake training and to widen my horizon, Essex has always allowed me to quench my thirst for knowledge and have continuously supported to develop me.”

Paul McGee, Head of Essex Social Care Academy (ESCA) & Principal Child & Family Social Worker:

“In my social work career over the last 24 years I have worked for a range of authorities in delivering and supporting children, families and adults with a common feature of a committed staff group determined to and making a difference. Essex for me takes things to the next level - what sets it apart? In my view it is the coming together of the community with the Council for a shared goal of “helping all people in Essex County to lead the best lives they can.”

Jenny Slee, North Somerset Council / Adoption West

Jenny Slee retired from her post in August 2018, but after an incredible 30 years' service with North Somerset Council, it is clear she has left behind a valuable legacy.

Throughout her career, Jenny worked in a number of roles in the council's resource service, which includes fostering, adoption, looked-after children and care leavers teams.

In 2008, she became the manager of the adoption service, where she successfully developed a strong and varied support system, despite the financial pressures in children's services. She has also overseen a number of positive Ofsted inspections, with her team rated 'good' in 2017 and commended for the initiatives they offer to adoptive families.

Not one to slow down, Jenny used her final few months in the job to shape the regionalisation of the adoption service, enthusiastically getting everyone on board.

Jenny's colleagues regard her as a caring, respectful manager whose main motivation has always been the children. She has consistently invested her time and skills in each case, making herself available to families, and being a listening ear in times of crisis. As a result, she has been a highly-valued member of staff and will undoubtedly be missed by many.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Shaira Makorie, Achieving for Children

“

Carol Long, Chief Executive, Young Epilepsy:

“Jenny will clearly be a big miss when she leaves north Somerset but will leave a legacy of high standards and some staff who will have learned good quality practice through her coaching and mentoring.”

Sherry Malik, Director of Children's Services, NSPCC:

“Jenny is a collaborator and positive role model with a genuine interest in staff. She is generous, enthusiastic, well respected and loved by staff and families and leaves a wonderful legacy.”

Service user feedback:

“If Jenny Slee hadn't believed in us as adopters, we wouldn't be here having a wonderful time with our adopted daughter. We had experienced much stress of an adoption breakdown. Without Jenny's support we would have given up on the process. Four years into the process I am a mother and the feeling is immense. Thank you, our dream of being a mum and dad is the most amazing feeling.”

Sheila Smith, Director, People and Communities, North Somerset Council:

“Across 39 years of social work I can honestly say that Jenny is one of the most inspirational social workers I have had the privilege to work alongside. She is an incredibly generous person who shares her knowledge, wisdom, experience and skills for the greater good.”



Jane Haywood, Derby City Council

Jane Haywood is not only a leader with a natural flair for managing the fast-paced environment of hospital social work, she is also one who has demonstrated great strength and resilience in the face of testing times for the Hospital to Home team she heads up.

Jane has practised in a hospital setting since qualifying in 1999, when she was one of the first social workers in the county to achieve the full post-qualifying award and train as a best interests assessor. She was appointed to her current post at the Royal Derby Teaching Hospital in 2016, where she has led on developing the Hospital to Home service.

In the past year, Jane's team have experienced a harsh winter, with an unprecedented influx of admissions to the hospital, as well as the sudden loss of two very dear colleagues and friends. Jane's nomination described how she navigated her team through these challenges with "confidence and calmness", working positively with NHS colleagues to ensure the best outcomes for patients, and supporting her staff through their grief.

Jane's colleagues credited her as a tenacious and sensitive manager, whose leadership has kept the show firmly on the road throughout an incredibly difficult time.

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Silver Award Winner
Cheri Pearson, Livewell South West

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Andy Butler, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner 2017:

“This nomination is a great endorsement for Jane. There is much evidence of her leadership skills and successful team management through difficult times. Her support to the team through the loss, and their bereavement, of two team members, whilst managing her own grief was exemplary. An inspirational nomination!”

Cath Gormally, Director of Social Care, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust:

“Jane is a strong and supportive manager who shows flair and creativity in motivating and supporting staff to excel. She also demonstrates strong social work values and uses her influence, hands-on, as a manager to get the best outcomes for service users.”

Lyn Lidsey, Community Care Worker:

“Jane has the ability to make you feel important and valued. She brings out the best qualities in each team member, provides us with confidence and creates a happy working environment where the team enjoy coming to work and want to work hard as we feel so appreciated.”

Julie Knight, Head of Service – Home First:

“I cannot imagine a more deserving recipient of the Team Leader of the Year Award. The past 12 months have been challenging both professionally and emotionally for Jane and the Hospital 2 Home team, and it is only because of Jane's tenacity, resilience, focus and sensitivity that the team, and our service within the acute pathway, has pulled through. We are lucky to have her and would be lost without her.”

Case Management Team, North Lincolnshire Council

"We do what we need to and we do it together - even if it means going that extra mile."

This ethos underpins the work of the Case Management Team, who are a shining example of how to really put the voice of children and young people at the heart of social work.

From organising a Christmas party and Secret Santa to give something special to those children who wouldn't otherwise have a great Christmas, to acquiring free cinema tickets to take 30 kids to see the Paddington Bear movie, this is a group of social workers who are committed to working closely with the local community and providing the best possible opportunities for children and young people who come into contact with the local authority.

With no extra resources, the team have also reshaped how the service works to support more children to remain at home and where appropriate, ensure plans are completed on time. This has led to particular success in improving outcomes around their court work, with the percentage of children where care proceedings are completed within the 26-week timescale increasing from 32% at the start of 2017-18, to 81% at the end of the year.

Supported by:



Carolyn Willow, Championing Social Work Values Award Winner 2017:

"Impressive evidence of professional knowledge, skill and team-working underpinned by a phenomenal dedication to children, young people and their families. Wonderful, heartfelt endorsements from children, young people and parents, and professionals who know your work well. What a team!"

David Akinsanya, Broadcaster, Journalist & Campaigner:

"I really enjoyed reading all the things done for clients, warmed my heart. Also, the wonderful statements from service users and parents made it clear that people feel cared for."

Service user feedback:

"Upon first meeting with LC, it was clear that her goal was to ensure my child had the right support he desperately needed, support I had begged for after a massive family loss. I could not have asked for a more understanding, honest and open person. I hope that LC can maintain the same compassion and honesty in her future cases as she has shown me and my child."

Ann-Marie Brierley, Head of Safeguarding Children, North Lincolnshire Council:

"The feedback from the children and families that we work with speaks volumes and identifies the impact that the workers have within the team. The team has excelled within this year and have grown in strength together to support children and families within North Lincolnshire to achieve positive outcomes."



Silver Award Winner

Hillingdon Young People's Service, London Borough of Hillingdon

Integrated Community Services Team, Shropshire Council

The number of delays in patients being discharged from hospital is never far from the headlines these days, and in 2017 Shropshire Council - a middle performing authority at the time - was told to improve its figures by 60% - or risk not receiving extra funding.

The Shropshire Integrated Community Services team rose to the challenge and by putting in place some innovative ways of working, managed to exceed the target. They achieved a 75% improvement by September 2017, and a 97% reduction in delayed transfers of care between May 2017 and May 2018 - some of the best figures the county has ever seen.

The team's success is due largely to their "home first" ethos - they are committed to working compassionately with the people they support to maximise their strengths and enable them to return home safely and maintain their independence, wherever possible.

This approach is clearly valued by the people on the receiving end, with one service user, who was supported to return home after a hospital admission for chronic lung disease, putting it quite simply: "For this team, it's not just a job...it's about people like me being able to work with someone who is always ready to listen and respond."

Supported by:



Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Silver Award Winner

Bath and North East Somerset AMHP Service



“

Clenton Farquharson MBE, Chair, Think Local Act Personal:

“Every member of the team is highly motivated and committed. Their compassion and values are evident daily.”

Sally Percival, Think Local Act Personal:

“This team obviously recognises that the little things are so important and goes that extra mile. This team is competent, caring and takes pride in doing a good job.”

Service user feedback:

“For this team, it's not just a job. My confidence was nothing at one stage; wishing I was dead. My confidence is now growing. I've started to talk about plans for the future, I want to be able to get out and about as well as be independent at home. You make sure that they win that award.”

Tanya Miles, Head of Adult Social Care, Shropshire Council:

“The team has worked hard to develop excellent relationships with partners in health, voluntary and private sectors, resulting in an unprecedented confidence in hospital social work. It has a strong social care identity and ethos with an approach of collaboration, innovation, exploration and above all, tenacity.”



Jessica Raper, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Before qualifying as a social worker, Jessica Raper completed a fine art degree and the way she applies her creativity to social work practice really shone through her nomination.

In the case of a child whose teeth had rotted due to dental phobia, Jessica provided worry people and magic beans to help the child feel safe at the dentist. In another case, she used finger puppets to enable a young person to communicate with the police. She also organised a fairy tea party for a parent and child who had not seen each other for six months, and her work on this case has led to ongoing positive contact between the two.

Alongside her inspiring direct work with children and families, Jessica has also navigated her way through a number of complex cases. A notable example was her work supporting two young people, who were being placed with relatives, and their mother, through difficult care proceedings, which saw her court report commended for its child focus and clarity.

Jessica's colleagues credited her as a practitioner with contagious positivity, adding that she was a "shining example" of how children's social work should be delivered.

Supported by:



YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER



Silver Award Winner
Jessie Turner, Hull City Council

“

Annie, Surviving Safeguarding:

“I was so impressed by the creative work Jessica has done with CYP to help them with their fears and distress. I was equally impressed with the way in which she has made parents feel safe to work with her. Jessica is clearly a huge asset and deserves recognition.”

Elizabeth Njenga, Newly Qualified Social Worker, BASW:

“Very strong nomination with clear evidence of social work values, excellent communication skills with varied ways of engaging with children and young people.”

Service user feedback:

“Jess has been the children's social worker for approximately 18 months. During that time, she has built a relationship with the children that is above and beyond that of any of their previous social workers. The children now look forward to her visits rather than the view that the social workers' visits are something to be tolerated”

Eoin Rush, Head of Children and Young People Support and Safeguarding Services, East Riding of Yorkshire Council:

“Jessica consistently goes the extra mile and feedback about her performance and approach is invariably positive. Her positivity and her determination is contagious. It inspires and enlivens all those around her. We think that Jessica is a star and shining example of how excellent children's social work should be delivered.”



Rebecca Payne, Gloucestershire County Council

Rebecca Payne is a social worker who puts the extra into extra-curricular. During her social work degree, she worked as a domiciliary care worker, volunteered as an advocate, and worked for a self-harm helpline. In her assessed and supported year in employment, she undertook training in basic telecare assessments, and has used the knowledge gained to support colleagues, reduce waiting times and risk, and improve people's quality of life.

As a result, Rebecca's colleagues at Gloucestershire County Council recognise her as a practitioner who has made an "impressive impact" early on in her career, always going the extra mile for her clients. Her nomination detailed her ambition to become a practice educator - she is passionate about social work and sharing learning, and has already arranged a session to promote and consolidate reflective practice within her team.

Rebecca continues to take on increasingly complex cases and her ability to manage this work successfully was evident in the feedback from service users, which described a social worker who consistently puts people's rights at the heart of her approach.

The judges praised Rebecca for her fantastic achievements, her ambition and the positive relationships she has clearly created with people she supports and their families.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner

Caroline McCormack, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

“

Gareth Benjamin, Mental Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2017:

“Rebecca has clearly created positive relationships with her service users and their families and worked towards implementing care plans which are aligned to their wishes. Her ability to engage a person who felt ‘looked down upon’ by professionals into mandatory meetings regarding their children must have been difficult and it is inspiring to read that Rebecca achieved this.”

Vidhya Biju, Adult and Overall Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2017:

“As an NQSW, Rebecca’s contribution has been exemplary. She has evidenced excellence in working in complex cases and is presented as highly motivated and inspirational.”

Service user feedback:

“We found Becky to be very understanding and tentative towards our problems and our concerns. Becky’s attitude and work rate was exemplary in moving forward with our case involving our mother.”

Vanessa Matthews, Practice Development Social Worker:

“Becky has demonstrated consistently that she understands the wider context and the deeper meaning behind her role. She is very reflective and is aware of the need for professional curiosity. I believe that she makes a real difference to the people she works and engages with.”



Chris Dyas, NSPCC

Chris Dyas' nomination received a resounding "wow" from this year's judging panel.

A practitioner with more than 30 years' experience, Chris' social care career began in 1985 when he started work as a youth worker, organising and developing community projects in South Manchester. He qualified as a social worker in 1990 and worked for two years in Manchester's children's services before spending the next six in Macclesfield.

Chris has spent the last 20 years working as a children's services practitioner at the NSPCC service in Stoke-on-Trent, where he specialises in supporting young people who have been traumatised by sexual abuse. He was praised by colleagues as having an "ultimate skill" in being able to make meaningful connections with children and young people, "helping them to believe that they are being listened to and are understood".

This was reflected in the moving testimonials submitted with Chris' nomination, where young people described him as a social worker who has helped them to feel supported, less alone and find light at the end of the tunnel. He really stood out as a practitioner who is consistently committed to developing his practice for the benefit of those he works with.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winners

Lucy Jackson (above), Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Owen Chizimba, Essex County Council

“

Plam Kara-Lewis, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board:

“A highly skilled person who needs to be duplicated for all young people. Young people's mental health needs skilled practitioners like Chris to make differences.”

Andrew Willcox, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board:

“Chris is clearly devoted and very dedicated to improving the life of children and young people. He certainly is passionate, devoted and very skilled. He will take any chance to develop and improve.”

Service user feedback:

“When I felt confused and anxious, Chris was there to talk to. When I lost my temper, he gave me the space I needed to calm down. When I pushed everyone away, he helped me understand why. When I needed to talk, he listened. When I needed to be silent, he waited.”

Sherry Malik, Director of Children's Services, NSPCC:

“Chris is unstoppable in his quest to put children first. He constantly finds ways to empower the young people he works with over and above the Letting the Future In therapeutic service he provides. He is a wonderful role model for his colleagues and for the children he works with in the way he continues to learn and develop.”



Jennifer Staude, Westminster City Council Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

Jennifer Staude stood out to the judges as a truly inspirational practitioner who has shaped the role of social work within an integrated health and social care service.

Jennifer trained in Australia but came to London to practise four years ago, taking up a senior post at Charing Cross Hospital's neuro-rehabilitation unit. Here she works on a single, complex ward supporting people with acquired brain injury - both during their stay for rehabilitation and following discharge, as they readjust to life back in the community.

Jennifer is the first social worker to hold this post and her colleagues say she has shown the service "how invaluable social work is to excellent care". She has developed her complex care planning role to meet a wide range of social need and has worked extensively to ensure the unit is well-equipped to identify and support key areas of social work practice, including mental capacity, safeguarding, and substance misuse.

Jennifer is a tenacious social worker and was praised for always fighting for the best outcomes for her clients, especially at a time of severe budget cuts. Against all odds, she has enabled a huge number of people to retain their independence in the community.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner Jess Adams, Gloucestershire County Council

“

Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults:

“This social worker exemplifies what is required of social workers today! She is an inspiration and having shaped and developed this social work service as the first one to hold the post, has won the confidence of the other professionals and most importantly service users! Brilliant.”

Caroline Waugh, Think Local Act Personal:

“Jen shows the importance of community inclusion and positivism when working with this group of people. I should know, I am the survivor of a Traumatic Brain Injury.”

Service user feedback:

“I’ve been in the UK 11 years and I’ve heard stories from other friends who haven’t had much help from social workers. But with me every time, I had the opposite experience. I learned a lot from my social worker. Now I can do more things, I can understand better and I’ve learned the right questions to ask.”

Sarah Daniels, Lead Therapist – Neurorehabilitation, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust:

“Jen is a dedicated and committed social worker, and an integral member of our specialist neuro-rehabilitation multi-disciplinary team. She has a warm, collaborative approach and an unrelenting commitment to representing the interests of every one of her clients.”

Social Workers Without Borders

Social Workers Without Borders

When the Social Workers Without Borders group started out, they 'didn't know how they could help' the unaccompanied children living in the Calais 'Jungle' refugee camp, but with admirable dedication they have gone on to change lives, enabling refugees to seek safety in the UK.

The group was set up in March 2016 in response to the refugee crisis in Europe and initially took teams of social workers out to volunteer in the Jungle camp. Just over a year later, Social Workers Without Borders became a registered charity and continues to undertake an increasing amount of best interests and human rights assessments for unaccompanied children and vulnerable adults facing removal from the country, working entirely on a pro-bono, voluntary basis.

The charity is also committed to training social workers in this specialist area, providing knowledge that assists their day-to-day work. At the heart of their approach is a true commitment to the social work values of human rights, respect for diversities, collective responsibility and social justice.

The judges were impressed by this group of social workers who don't just do the day job - but have also dedicated their own time to fighting for the rights of people who have none.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Sybille Radszun, Southwark Council

“

Louise Watson, Student Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2017:

“This charity do amazing work and champion social work values of human rights and social justice which underpins our profession. A very worthy nomination for the work they do in their day job, but even more so for the time they dedicate outside of their working hours.”

Sharon Martin, Chair, National IRO Managers Partnership:

“Social Workers Without Borders is a truly impressive example of the human spirit at its best - tackling social injustices and challenging unethical and inhumane practices and persistently endeavouring to make the world a better, more peaceful, more equitable place for all. Perhaps one of the most impressive social work movements I have ever seen.”

Clenton Farquharson MBE, Chair, Think Local Act Personal:

“I must say this is the true meaning of championing social work values. This application ticks all social work values - social justice, human services and human potential.”

Lynn King, Trustee, Social Workers Without Borders:

“It has astonished me that, in addition to an often stressful and extremely busy day job, that social workers have decided that they want to give up their time and make a passionate commitment to supporting those most vulnerable in our society, at a time when immigration has often elicited a negative narrative in the media.”



**Peter Smith,
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council**

It's never easy to summarise a 40-year-long career in social work in just a few hundred words, but if there's one thing that really stands out from Peter Smith's time in the profession, it's his tireless commitment to making a difference to the lives of adults in need.

Peter's passion for working with people started in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica, where he worked on a voluntary agricultural project for three years. He qualified as a social worker in 1978, working as a residential care officer with older people in East Yorkshire.

In his role at Stockton Borough Council, Peter has managed a range of in-house provider services and has been particularly instrumental in developing the local authority's reablement service and a LiveWell hub for people with dementia, both of which have been recognised in national awards. He is valued by colleagues as a manager with "extraordinary integrity" and a calming and supportive attitude, who always makes time for his staff and never loses sight of the vulnerable people services are there to support.

Peter's dedication to social work really has been 'lifelong', and as his boss aptly commented: "his legacy will serve as an example for all staff involved in social care".

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Jenny Slee, North Somerset Council / Adoption West

“

Lily Hopkins, Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice Award Winner 2017:

“Peter has clearly had a significant impact on his colleagues and social work practice in Stockton-On-Tees. Peter has dedicated his time to research and specific areas of social work practice, whilst being involved in a variety of projects within adult services.”

Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Patron and Shadow Children's Minister:

“Peter has amassed an impressive array of experience in his career of over 40 years. I am sure that his work with the dementia hub will continue to help into the future.”

Wendy MacDonald, Inspector, Care Quality Commission:

“Peter was my Service Manager for three years. As a manager, Peter has been one of the best. He never made me worry about going to him if I was having a concern and would always spend time to work through issues without blame or criticism, exactly what is needed in a busy service.”

Ann Workman, Director - Adults and Health, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council:

“Always professional and working to the highest standards, Peter never loses sight of the ‘person’ he is supporting and working to assist. Reviewing Peter’s achievements showcases the outstanding contribution he has made throughout his career and it is no exaggeration to say that in my view Peter is the ultimate social worker whose legacy will serve as an example for all staff involved in social care.”



Anthony Douglas CBE

Anthony started out as a social worker 43 years ago, initially in the Rhondda Valley and then Hackney, and has dedicated his working life to social work ever since. Both his passion and resilience are part-fuelled by his experiences as an adopted child, which left him with a lifelong connection to many of the issues faced by the millions of vulnerable children and adults supported by social workers.

Anthony has written prolifically about social work for decades and more recently has produced four textbooks for social workers covering all aspects of frontline practice – child protection, mental health, adoption and partnership working. He is a visiting fellow of the University of East Anglia and Plymouth universities. In July this year, UEA awarded him an honorary law degree.

Since 2004, Anthony Douglas has been Chief Executive of Cafcass, the biggest national employer of social workers charged with articulating the voice of over 135,000 children annually in family courts throughout England. Ofsted rated Cafcass as outstanding in March this year. Ofsted called him an 'exceptional, inspirational leader'.

Anthony has worked at every level in social care and chaired UK-wide policy organisation BAAF for ten years between 2006 and 2016. Throughout his career he has made significant contributions to changes in the law and regulations governing social work and has mentored many current senior social work leaders.

Anthony has raised significant funds for charity in many tough challenges. He is currently developing Voice of the Child standards for public services, including for social work, which he hopes will have an international reach and be formally accredited.

Anthony represents the best traditions of public service and public sector leadership. His contribution to the work of the family justice system and the welfare of children and vulnerable adults in England is truly outstanding.

“

Chosen by the Trustees

Joanna Nicolas, Independent Child Protection Consultant:

“Anthony Douglas is an extraordinary man who is 100% committed to improving children’s lives and is a great advocate for the social work profession. He has been committed to the Social Work Awards charity since its inception because he is such a great supporter of social workers. Although he is the CEO of Cafcass, the largest employer of social workers in Europe, he makes time to contribute to so many other worthwhile causes. The profession is lucky to have him and there is no one more deserving of this award.”

Ana Popovici, Deputy Director of Children's Services London Borough of Hillingdon:

“What Anthony does best is relationship- based leadership. Resilient, with a relentless passion for making a difference, Anthony has positively touched so many lives throughout his career. A ‘forever’ social worker, with a heart of gold he has inspired and instilled that passion in many of us, aspiring leaders of today. Thank you Anthony for your contribution to our journey, to my journey.”

Beverley Williams MBE, Founder, Social Work Awards:

“Anthony has always been supportive of the Social Worker of the Year Awards since its infancy in 2006. He was always there for advice and took part in the events in the early days. Anthony is an awesome person/professional and I thank him for sharing my vision and still supporting the awards years later. Thank you!”



Zoe Williamson, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust / Northumberland County Council

Zoe Williamson possesses an aptitude for navigating the challenges and complexities of mental health social work that far belies the five years she has worked in the profession.

Zoe's career started out in Northumberland Council's children's services in 2013. This role provided her with a solid foundation for moving into mental health social work and the significant experience and confidence she gained in developing relationships with children has really come to life in her current role within the NHS Trust's mental health team.

Zoe's supervisors credit her with achieving "remarkable success" with some hard-to-reach young people, bringing about change that other professionals - and in some cases service users and carers themselves - did not see as possible. She is valued by those she supports as an extremely professional, kind social worker, who will "never let you down".

Zoe is now nearing the completion of the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) qualification, and is expected to be an "absolute asset" to the local AMHP service. The judge's took great pleasure in reading about the fantastic social work she has delivered to date, which they felt made her a stand-out choice for this year's Social Worker of the Year.

Supported by:



“

Chosen by the Trustees

Rob Mitchell, Principal Social Worker, Bradford Council:

“This was a stunning nomination.

Zoe is described by people who have used her support as kind, honest, trustworthy and with a heart of gold whilst remaining professional and rights-focused throughout and integral towards contributing to a person's recovery. For a social worker, that really is the aim and the highest accolade we can ever achieve.”

Joanna Nicolas, Independent Child Protection Consultant:

“Everything social workers should do is about improving the lives of those we support. The ringing endorsements of Zoe, from some of those she has supported, say it all.”

Ana Popovici, Deputy Director of Children's Services, London Borough of Hillingdon:

“Zoe seems to have it all. The resilience to respond confidently and effectively in crisis and the patience and compassion to build relationships and effect change. These are exceptional attributes for a social worker in a front line role.”

List of finalists 2018

Mental Health Social Worker of the Year

- Chrystell Silas, East Sussex County Council
- Jessie Griggs-Smith, Norfolk County Council
- Lara Box, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Penny Jackson, Darlington Borough Council
- Zoe Williamson, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust / Northumberland County Council

Making a Difference

- Eileen Qubain, Heart of Worcestershire College
- Izabela Spalding, East London NHS Foundation Trust
- Wendy Ashton, Eden Valley Hospice

Student Social Worker of the Year

- Sian Miljkovic, University of Bedfordshire
- Sivanesan Ramamoorthy, The Open University
- Victoria Stephenson, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Mark McConnell, The University of Huddersfield

Practice Educator of the Year

- Emma Goodall, Cornwall Council
- Joseph Robb, Darlington Borough Council
- Karen Maude, Bradford College
- Lorraine Falconer, Croydon Council

Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice

- Divisional Based Intervention Team, Essex County Council
- Leaving Care Team, North Yorkshire County Council
- Love Barrow Families
- People From Abroad Team, Norfolk County Council
- Rob Manchester, Devon County Council / Devon NHS Partnership Trust
- Super Power Group, Leeds City Council

Best Social Work Employer

- Achieving for Children
- Cafcass
- Doncaster Children's Services Trust
- Essex County Council
- London Borough of Lambeth
- Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Stockport Family

Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services

- Cheri Pearson, Livewell South West
- Jane Haywood, Derby City Council
- Kelly-Ann Page, Gloucestershire County Council
- Nicholas Edwards, Trafford Council
- Tracey Bage, South Tyneside Council

Team Leader of the Year, Children's Services

- Belinda Collingwood, Essex County Council
- Jenny Slee, North Somerset Council / Adoption West
- Justine Hughes, Oldham Council
- Linzi Nicholson, Doncaster Children's Services Trust
- Shaira Makorie, Achieving for Children
- Victoria McLeod, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Team of the Year, Adult Services

- Bath and North East Somerset AMHP Service
- Integrated Community Services Team, Shropshire Council
- LiveWell Dementia Hub, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Organisational Safeguarding Team, Essex County Council
- Richmond and Wandsworth DOLS Team
- Complex Review and Transitions, Livewell South West

Team of the Year, Children's Services

- Barnsley Fostering Assessment Team, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Case Management Team, North Lincolnshire Council
- Fair Ways Fostering
- Hillingdon Young People's Service, London Borough of Hillingdon
- Integrated Multi Agency Partnership, North Lincolnshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Adoption Team
- Referral and Assessment Team, Achieving for Children
- South Essex Family Centre, Essex County Council

Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year

- Alexandra Edge, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust / Northumberland County Council
- Caroline McCormack, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Claudia Lancashire, Derby City Council
- Donna-Marie Wilson, Devon County Council
- Kerri Davies, Kent County Council
- Nikki Stenning, Devon County Council
- Rabbi Deloso, Essex County Council
- Rebecca Payne, Gloucestershire County Council

Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year

- Alice Bent, Oxfordshire County Council
- Daniel Newman, Essex County Council
- Heidi Turtle, Kent County Council
- Jessie Turner, Hull City Council
- Jessica Raper, East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Simone Oliver, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
- Tiffany Ridd, Norfolk County Council

Adult Social Worker of the Year

- Dan Morton, London Borough of Hillingdon
- Jennifer Staude, Westminster City Council / Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
- Jess Adams, Gloucestershire County Council
- Jo Doughty, Gloucestershire County Council
- Louise Redsull, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Lucy Hunt, Devon County Council
- Steve Foster, Hampshire County Council

Children's Social Worker of the Year

- Chris Dyas, NSPCC
- Kirsteen Lowrie, Southwark Council
- Liz Davis, Norfolk County Council
- Lucy Jackson, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Owen Chizimba, Essex County Council
- Rebecca Healy, Birmingham Children's Trust
- Slavica Tobdzic, Central Bedfordshire Council
- Theresa Forrester, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Championing Social Work Values

- Jenny Slee, North Somerset Council / Adoption West
- Karen Pain, Bristol City Council
- Social Workers Without Borders
- Sybille Radszun, Southwark Council

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Gail Faulkner, Leeds City Council
- Janet Reed, Ministry of Defence
- Jenny Slee, North Somerset Council / Adoption West
- Peter Smith, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Tony Wright, Forward Assist

Outstanding Contribution to Social Work

- Anthony Douglas CBE

Overall Social Worker of the Year 2018

- Zoe Williamson, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust / Northumberland County Council

Thank you to our judges

Andrew Willcox, Age 16, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

Andy Butler, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner 2017

Andy Gill, BASW

Anne Longfield OBE, Children's Commissioner for England

Annie, Surviving Safeguarding

Anthony Douglas CBE, Cafcass

Benjamin McCormick, Age 19, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

Brian Mitchell, Bradford College

Carol Long, Young Epilepsy

Caroline Waugh, Think Local Act Personal

Carolyn Willow, Championing Social Work Values Award Winner 2017

Cath Gormally, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

Clenton Farquharson MBE, Think Local Act Personal

Dave Thomas MBE, Central Bedfordshire Council

David Akinsanya, Broadcaster, Journalist and Campaigner

Dez Holmes, Research in Practice

Elizabeth Njenga, BASW

Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Shadow Minister for Children & Families and Social Work Awards Patron

Esha Mokni, Age 14, Barnardo's

Gareth Benjamin, Mental Health Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2017

Gary Spencer-Humphrey, Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2017

Glen Garrod, ADASS President

Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children & Families

Jackie Dowding, Children's Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2017

Jess Dugdale-Pointon, Age 15, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

Leanne Baines, Team Leader of the Year – Children's Services Award Winner 2017

Lily Hopkins, Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice Award Winner 2017

Liz Hewitt, Skylakes Social Work

Louise Walker, Raising the Profile of Social Work Award Winner 2017

Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults

Marion Russell, Cornwall Council

Maris Stratulis, BASW

Nicky Skinner, Team Leader of the Year – Adult Services Award Winner 2017

Plam Kara-Lewis, Age 17, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

Rob Mitchell, Bradford Council and Social Work Awards Trustee

Sally Percival, Think Local Act Personal

Samantha Keith, Team of the Year – Adult Services Award Winner 2017

Sharon Martin, National IRO Managers Partnership

Sherry Malik, NSPCC

Sophie Lyon, Age 12, Barnardo's

Tony Zaman, London Borough of Hillingdon

Vidhya Biju, Adult and Overall Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2017

Zoe Betts, iamsocialwork



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Congratulations to all the finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2018.



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North Lincolnshire Council is delighted to support the Social Worker of the year awards, is proud to sponsor the Practice Educator of the Year Award and congratulates all the finalists.

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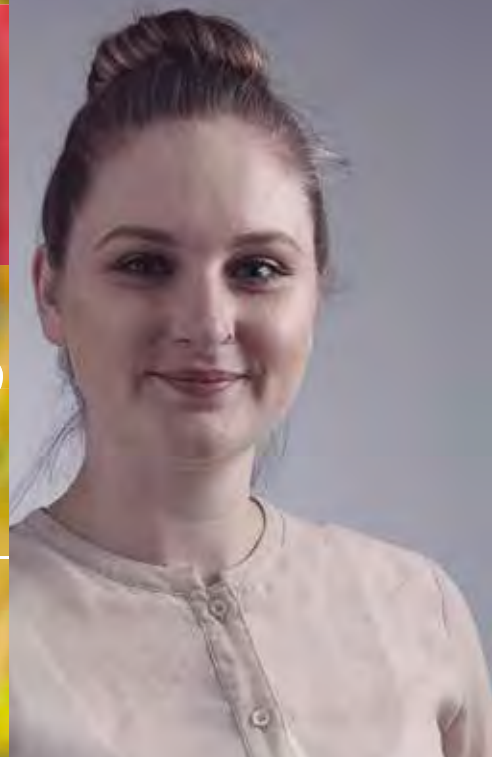
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KCC are proud to sponsor the Team Leader Award. We recognise that Team Leaders motivate and inspire their social work teams and champion best practice, making a real difference to children's lives. Congratulations to all of this year's finalists.



Celebrating our winners



2011 Celia Parker, Southwark Council, winner of Team Leader (Children's Services) and Overall Social Worker of the Year awards



2012 Estelle Thain, Peterborough City Council, winner of Children's and Overall Social Worker of the Year awards



2013 Patricia Fifield, Warwickshire County Council, winner of Adult and Overall Social Worker of the Year awards



2014 Zahraa Adam, Essex County Council, winner of Newly Qualified Children's and Overall Social Worker of the Year awards



2015 Helen Pye, South West Yorkshire NHS Partnership Foundation Trust, winner of Mental Health and Overall Social Worker of the Year awards



2016 Blanka Lang, Essex County Council, winner of Team Leader (Children's Services) and Overall Social Worker of the Year awards



2017 Vidhya Biju, Birmingham City Council, winner of Adult and Overall Social Worker of the Year awards



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£14,001 - £17,000	£9.70
£17,001 - £20,000	£11.50
£20,001 - £25,000	£14.00
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