



# social WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



**2019**  
WINNERS

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

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



**Thea Radburn**  
Hertfordshire Partnership University  
NHS Foundation Trust

She's not been in the job for long, but Thea Radburn has already demonstrated a strong ability for navigating the complexities and challenges of mental health social work.

After completing a degree in psychology and criminology, Thea began working as a social work assistant with people with dementia, learning disabilities and physical disabilities. This sparked an interest in pursuing a career in mental health social work, and she enrolled in the Think Ahead programme, becoming one of the first cohorts to study through this route. She became employed by the Trust after receiving her postgraduate diploma, and went onto complete her master's degree alongside her first year of employment.

On top of her caseload, Thea has made time to deliver training to her colleagues and host social work peer-supervision sessions. She's highly regarded by other health and care staff as an enthusiastic and devoted social worker, and a role model for the profession – but is also clearly valued by the people whose lives she works to transform.

One individual even went as far as to put her forward for a staff award, writing in the nomination: "Thea's calming and totally reassuring manner is a tonic and a rare gift."

Supported by:



**Silver Award Winners**

Jessica Jones, Norfolk County Council  
Ingrid Richardson, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust



“

Rachel Smith, Team of the Year Children's Services Award Winner 2018:

**“This is a standout nomination – an absolute pleasure to read. Thea has received an abundance of compliments and comments relating to her positive approach and this should be recognised.”**

Vicci Livingstone-Thompson, Inclusion Gloucestershire:

**“Thea's enthusiasm and person-centred approach really came across in her nomination, and the endorsements speak for themselves in regard to her gentle, reassuring manner.”**

Feedback from someone supported by Thea:

**“From the moment she began working with me I have been totally impressed with her kind, gentle but reassuring manner. Nothing seems to be a problem for Thea. It is time you were given official recognition which you so richly deserve. The Trust should feel proud to have you as part of the team but, more importantly, as a parent myself, your parents should feel enormously proud of you too.”**

Joy Rickard, Senior Social Worker, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust:

**“As Thea's supervisor for the last 18 months +, I feel she has continued to grow as a confident and developing practitioner. Her effective ability to understand holistically the entirety of an individual, and always giving the sense of undivided dedicated time; without issue despite managing what is understood as a competing, challenging and sometimes overwhelming role is astounding.”**





## Sarah Frances Bramley Health

In just two short years, Sarah Frances has had a transformational impact on both local and national practice in her role as lead mental health social worker with Bramley Health.

Notably, she has initiated a new way for people in low-secure settings to be able to apply for Universal Credit, after identifying that they couldn't do so through the normal route due to restricted internet access in hospitals. The close working relationship she developed with the Department for Work and Pensions has seen this initiative rolled out nationally, enabling people in other hospitals across England and Wales to benefit.

Her achievements don't stop there – Sarah has also worked closely with a local building society to enable people to open a simple bank account, and with a doctoral researcher from Nottingham University to pioneer participation in local and national political issues, which included leading a group visit to the Houses of Parliament.

These are just some of the successes from Sarah's 25-year-long career in the sector, throughout which she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to empowering people who use services and to driving forward positive change within service provision.

She stood out as a "consistent game changer" for the profession.

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## Silver Award Winner Denise Smalley, PAC-UK

“

Simon Shreeve, Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice Award Winner 2018:

**“Sarah’s nomination evidences the differences she has made, not just locally, but also influencing DWP policy nationally in opening up a pathway for low-secure detainees to apply for Universal Credit.”**

Carol Long, Researcher, Durham University:

**“Sarah has used some wide experience and academic study to develop her practice in a way that appears to have had real impact. She has also enabled service users’ voices to be heard and to be empowered to exercise their rights as citizens.”**

Feedback from someone supported by Sarah:

**“Sarah has helped me make contact with my daughter after many years apart. She has also helped me find my sister, through the Salvation Army tracing service, after she disappeared for many years. I am very, very grateful to her for this and thank her for all her support and kindness. Sarah also helped me take the tough step to report abuse which happened to me years ago. This has helped me let go and move on.”**

Vanessa Ling, Hospital Director:

**“She is creative and enthusiastic and someone service users, staff and carers seek out for advice, a listening ear and support. She does not see a problem but looks for a solution and is prepared to make a stand to make changes that push forward service provision. Sarah is not someone who waits for direction; she makes change and looks for ways to make the world a better place.”**



## Mary Carter Anglia Ruskin University

Mary was described in her nomination as someone who “quietly works” to support others and is not one to blow her own trumpet, but the positive and lasting contribution she has so clearly made to university life, her studies and on placement speaks volumes.

Mary became the first to establish a ‘Social Worker Society’ for her fellow students, and has worked tirelessly to secure a number of learning opportunities such as paid conferences and volunteering. Now entering her final year, she has also become a mentor for first year students, providing a listening ear for those who may be struggling.

As a care leaver herself, Mary has also been instrumental in transforming the University’s care leavers strategy. She has helped her tutors to understand the needs and skills of students who have experienced care, and has contributed to the development of an open day for young people in care and university guidance on supporting these students.

Mary stood out as a “clear high flyer” and the judges were impressed by how she’s already putting her social work skills into action in her community, including working with her local council as a Care Leaver advocate to improve practice for children in care.

Supported by:



## Silver Award Winner Elizabeth Dodd, University of Salford

“

Karen Maude, Practice Educator of the Year Award Winner 2018:

**“The evidence in the nomination gives a picture of a committed, passionate person who gives her time willingly to both support and develop social work within the university, is proactive to promote social justice and community involvement, practices with kindness, compassion and lives her life demonstrating integrity and social work values.”**

Gary Spencer-Humphrey, Trustee, The Social Work Awards:

**“Mary’s application stood out from the rest as a clear high flyer! Not only does Mary bring with her lived experience of the profession she is about to enter, she has used her own personal experience as a springboard to advocate for and support other care leavers. I feel honoured to have read this application.”**

John Newman, Placement Tutor:

**“As Mary’s Placement Tutor I valued the professional way Mary applied herself in the first placement setting. Mary was able to evidence a strong capacity for self-awareness and reflection in action. I greatly valued the enthusiasm Mary brought to the placement and her commitment to the needs and rights of service users.”**

Pennie Byrne, Senior Social Work Lecturer:

**“Mary is an outstanding social work student who is actively involved in all areas of university life, especially as it pertains to social work and community involvement. I absolutely love having Mary in my lectures as she is always keen to learn. In addition, I am very proud of her academic achievements to date and having sought her permission, will use her most recent assignment as an exemplar for future students.”**





## Djamila Aggabi London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Warm, enthusiastic and approachable are just some of the qualities social work students appreciate about practice educator Djamila Aggabi, who's been in the role since 2012.

But what Djamila is also well-known for is her anti-oppressive approach to practice education. She often takes students under her wing who have faced a breakdown in their first placement, or who need extra support developing their skills and knowledge, giving them a second chance to prove that they have what it takes to become social workers.

Whether it be helping students to overcome their fears of presenting to big groups, or securing additional shadowing opportunities, the testimonials included within her nomination reflected a practice educator who both nurtures and challenges her students.

She was described as recognising that student social workers are "the life blood" of the future of social work, and she is determined to instil confidence in those she mentors.

She also does all of this alongside her day job as co-team manager of the council's Edge of Care service, where she is held in high regard by colleagues for her positive outlook and for always putting the children and families they support at the forefront of her thinking.

Supported by:



**Silver Award Winner**  
Shelley Gill, Durham Council

“

Wendy Ashton, Practice Educator of the Year Award Winner 2018:

**“I am overwhelmed by the respect and commendations from others for Djamila. She has earned everyone's respect and obviously has an excellent reputation as a good practice educator. The fact that she takes students that have already failed one placement or are struggling shows determination, compassion and resilience.”**

Sharon Stockwell, Team of the Year, Adult Services Award Winner 2018:

**“Djamila takes students that need a second chance. I love this, seeing the potential in a social work student when the student doesn't see it themselves. Fantastic.”**

Student social worker:

**“Throughout my time on placement Djamila went above and beyond in all areas, she supported me with personal struggles which without her help I do not think I would have qualified. I am happy to say that today I started my first qualified job and I am proud to say that because of her support I have reached my goals and my children are very proud of their mother.”**

Phillip Morgan, Group Manager – Children's Resources, London Borough of Tower Hamlets:

**“Djamila has always had a passion and commitment to providing an excellent training environment for student social workers. She recognises that student social workers are the life blood of the future of the social work profession and to this end she has always sought to create a nurturing and challenging practice environment.”**



## Futures Service Leeds City Council

"This is the best relationship I've had with a professional". These are the words of a young person supported by the Futures service – and a clear testament to the impact it's making.

The social work led service was set up in response to local and national evidence about young parents who were vulnerable to experiencing the repeated trauma of losing children through care proceedings. It aims to prevent repeat proceedings, and improve the life circumstances, and physical, emotional and mental health, of this particular group.

Futures started taking referrals in March 2018, and focuses its work on care leavers and parents under the age of 25, who experienced the removal of their first child. They help young people to achieve stability in a number of ways, including accessing new education, employment, and training opportunities, and providing support with housing difficulties.

One quality that shone through this nomination was the way staff listen to the young people. This has led to improvements in the design of the service, with the introduction phase adapted to provide more clarity about the social work role. But it's also given this vulnerable group a much-needed voice, and the confidence to move forward in their lives.

Supported by:



## Silver Award Winner

Devon Prisons ASC Team, Devon County Council

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Dave Thomas MBE, Central Bedfordshire Council:

**“The Future’s approach works to enable young people through the provision of a holistic support process. Working to enable physical, emotional and mental wellbeing through a mixed team approach appears to have enabled young people to reduce further trauma and risk.”**

Chris Dyas, Children’s Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2018:

**“What a brilliant idea, and such a needed service. This age group have been sadly overlooked for far too long.”**

Feedback from young person who accessed support through the Futures Service:

**“Thank you for listening to me today. Listening is nice, and what I liked most is that you didn’t tell me that my goals were stupid or that I needed to calm down or whatever, but instead you said you understand.”**

Emma Ross, Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Programme Manager:

**“The team are social work led but multidisciplinary in nature and from the outset they have been determined to share skills and knowledge, take risks and go the extra mile to support an extremely difficult to reach group. These incredible and dedicated people always work from the base assumption that if we can build meaningful relationships then anything is possible.”**





## Leeds City Council Children's Services

From 'inadequate' to 'outstanding' in less than a decade, Leeds children's services has much to be proud of, and is widely regarded in the sector as an exemplar of good practice.

At the beginning of its improvement journey, Leeds made investment in the workforce a priority, taking the view that if you create the right environment for staff, good practice and good outcomes for children and families will follow. With 'readiness to practice' support for students, an aspiring managers programme, and academic masterclasses – to name a few – it's clear that learning and development has been considered right across the service.

This investment has paid off – the children's services current agency rate is 0.5%, compared to an England average of 15.4% and a regional average of 8%. The reduction in agency rates has achieved savings of over £20m for the council, which has been reinvested into services for children. Leeds is also ranked second nationally on social work vacancy rates, and is in the top ten authorities for turnover and average caseloads.

Figures aside, the numerous testimonials provided by staff also evidenced a workforce that feels valued, respected and supported, and like their development is taken seriously.

Just like it's Ofsted rating, the judges concluded this entry was "frankly outstanding"

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## Silver Award Winner

Suffolk County Council, Children's Services

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Peter Hay CBE, Chair, The Social Work Awards:

**“This is quite frankly outstanding. It's a comprehensive, well thought out offer across all the aspects of being an employer. The many features of the offer are strengthened by being rooted in the values of restorative practice. This can be seen at work in the emphasis upon relationships which are the focus of so many endorsements but also shown in the small things such as the coaching between practitioners and senior leaders.”**

Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults:

**“The workforce data is evidence of the excellent conditions created by this employer for their social workers to practice well, feel valued and supported and to have a relentless focus on achieving the best outcomes for the people with who they work.”**

Feedback from colleague who completed the Aspiring Managers development programme:

**“I am in the right place, at the right time, with the right support and I know my aspirations to continue to grow and develop moving forwards will be actualised with the tailored support Leeds so carefully invests in.”**

Steve Walker, Director of Children's Services, Leeds City Council:

**“Leeds has recognised that the strength of any social work agency is in its people, and has invested accordingly in a clear career pathway for staff, supported by appropriate learning and development opportunities at every level. The benefits of this approach can be seen in their success in staff recruitment and retention, their Ofsted judgement, but most importantly in the outcomes they deliver for children.”**





## Jack Skinner Bradford Council

It's not difficult to see why all social workers in Bradford want to be in Jack's team. He is a manager who is supportive, encouraging and truly leads by example.

But the impact Jack has had on social work in Bradford is perhaps most clearly evidenced by the improved performance to the mental capacity service since he became team manager. It's gone from being a service with a backlog of over 2,000 unauthorised Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) when he came into post, to just 45.

Despite only being in the role for two years, Jack has also led on a business case to help invest in the service and on the recruitment of social workers, creating a career pathway for newly qualified staff to become best interest assessors within his team. He has also been instrumental in delivering a bespoke training package to care homes across Bradford, which has been linked to improvements in their CQC inspection outcomes.

Jack's colleagues put his successes down to his approach to the work and his values – he places people's human rights at the centre of all that he does, and inspires his team members to be the best social workers they possibly can be.

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## Silver Award Winner Annika Leyland-Bolton, Doncaster Council

“

Jane Haywood, Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services Award Winner 2018:

**“I want to work for Jack!! He has inspired me just by reading his endorsements! Courage to use the MCA to empower customers is so important. Clearly an inspirational leader.”**

Anthony Douglas CBE, Outstanding Contribution to Social Work Award Winner 2018:

**“I think this nomination stands out as the reader can feel Jack's impact. He has achieved this in a short period of time. He works in a crucial and overloaded area – capacity assessments – and brings great energy to this issue. Of particular note is that everyone wants to work in his team – that is the ultimate accolade.”**

Feedback from a social worker in Jack's team:

**“I have always found Jack to be an incredibly supportive manager. He is never too busy to listen to whatever issues I'm grappling with and will drop everything to help out in my hour of need. His focus is always on upholding human rights and challenging discrimination. The strength of his values has definitely had a knock-on effect on my own values, I feel more like a social worker than ever!”**

Elaine James, Service Manager, Bradford Council:

**“I would describe Jack as a ‘quiet radical’. He is clever, funny, intelligent and has a natural, personable approach which enables all people who he works with and for feel totally at ease. He is exceptionally values-driven and the confidence he helps instill in others is the cornerstone of the service he manages.”**



## Louise Pashley

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

In 2014, the Leaving Care team in Rotherham was rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted. The well-documented struggles faced by the local authority – and the work needed to improve the Leaving Care team – might have put some practitioners off, but not Louise Pashley.

Instead, Louise built her team at the height of these difficulties and became "more tenacious, more committed and even more unapologetic about what she expected" for care leavers. Her hard work paid off – when Ofsted returned four years later, the service was deemed outstanding, with inspectors praising the team for their high aspirations.

This success is perhaps no better summarised than in the words of one of Louise's colleagues, who wrote, "she took the team from a place of darkness to a place of light".

Louise, who was born and bred in Rotherham, only ever wanted to work in Leaving Care. She started out as a personal advisor, before qualifying as a social worker and progressing to team manager – a post she has held since 2012. Her 20-year stint with the service speaks volumes about her commitment to her home town, and she is clearly trusted, valued and respected, by both her colleagues and the young people she fights so hard for.

Supported by:



## Silver Award Winner

Hannah Gregory, Gloucestershire County Council

“

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

**“A Rotherham resident committed to seeing through the struggles of her hometown despite intense public scrutiny. The team trusts, values and respects Louise – “she is our home, our heart”. Endorsements from young people and her colleagues are genuine and heartfelt.”**

Carol Long, Researcher, Durham University:

**“Louise has been team leader for the after care team in a very troubled authority at a very difficult time. She has shown strength of character by not running away from it, but by staying and embracing the challenges, and demanding the best for the young care leavers of Rotherham.”**

Feedback from young people:

**“She gives advice and gets me thinking.” “She is dead welcoming and she does this for everyone.”**

**“She will always take time to sit with me, even if she's dead busy.” “Louise is the sweetest, kindest most honest women I know.” “She said yes about supporting me with getting a flat. If I'd have been there when she told me I would have hugged her!”**

**“Louise has always been in my corner and I can't thank her enough.”**

Sharon Sandell, Service Manager Leaving Care, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council:

**“I have watched her focus and unerring commitment to getting what is right for our young people. I have watched her support her team during times of triumph and through grief, personal and professional. I have watched her team care for her. The team and young people are all incredibly proud of Louise. We are lucky to have her in our service.”**



## ASC West Locality Team 3 Leicester City Council

Leicester City's West Locality Team 3 cover a complex constituency, with sex work, drug use and homelessness among the issues they come into contact with. But with a 'coal face' approach at the heart of their work, and a determination to address social injustice, they are effecting significant change in the lives of some of the most vulnerable adults.

The team's approach is rooted in strengths-based practice and they work hard to build positive relationships with people who use services, patiently working alongside them for as long as it takes to bring about positive outcomes. In one case, for example, the team supported a person with cerebral palsy – whose home had been overtaken by substance users – to move to more suitable accommodation and re-establish themselves in the community.

Another notable achievement is how the team have worked collaboratively with other agencies to achieve better outcomes for people who use services. This includes reducing the number of appointments they have to attend with different agencies, after staff identified that this was a considerable barrier to people accessing the support they need.

As one of the judges commented, this is a team of passionately driven social workers who, with the sole intention of bettering people's lives, are doing great work.

Supported by:



## Silver Award Winner

West Devon Community Heath & Social Care Team,  
Devon County Council / Livewell Southwest



“

Clenton Farquharson MBE, Chair, Think Local Act Personal:  
**“This team has shown real empathy. In order to listen to the needs of people, they have used instinct and initiative within the team to improve things.”**

Sally Percival, Think Local Act Personal  
**“What a great team that appears to have the gift of building a really strong relationship with people they work with, including professionals and services. The feedback is good to read, and they should be really proud of the work they are doing.”**

Feedback from someone supported by the team:  
**“The West Locality Team in Leicester took me out of an unsafe environment when my property became a chill out den. I would like to thank you all for your hard work and support as well as standing by me at this difficult time in my life.”**

Bindu Parmar, Head of Service – ASC Leicester City Council:  
**“An active and vibrant team with members who have developed a clear understanding of their collective responsibilities, but also as individual contributors, feeding into the departmental efficiencies and services. A proactive and reactive team striving to meet the needs of those they serve.”**



## Family Group Conference Plus Team, including Lifelong Links Devon County Council

From budget restrictions to recruitment freezes and sickness, Devon's Family Group Conference Plus Team has had to overcome many challenges. But throughout them all, the service has consistently strived to put family at the heart of all it does.

The team's approach is rooted in child-focused, strengths-based and restorative practice. Most of their work involves delivering Family Group Conferences (FGCs) and other restorative meetings. They are also one of the original pilot teams for the Innovation Fund project, Lifelong Links, which aims to build positive support networks for children in care.

The team has worked tirelessly to promote the inclusion of families in decisions about their children and this has led to social workers now always considering FGC's as part of their work, and the team's approach being included in the council's procedures.

What really struck the judges about this team was how they have impacted on young people's self-esteem and their sense of identity. One young person described how the Lifelong Links work had "genuinely changed" the quality of their life, while another – who has since been offered a job within the team – said the fact that staff had seen their potential and championed them in the areas of life they struggled with was "amazing".

Supported by:



## Silver Award Winner

Hillingdon Adolescents Team, London Borough of Hillingdon



“

Imogen Tutt, Aged 16, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board:

**“The fact that this team include children and young people in discussions is great and the way they work on their self-esteem and identity is commendable. They believe children and young people to be most important impact showing how they understand the value in what they do for children.”**

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

**“Very impressive service that clearly has the family at the heart of their work. It is evident that the families have a voice and are part of the decision making which clearly empowers them.”**

Feedback from a mother supported by the team:

**“The FGC process has been a very positive experience for my family. Our coordinator worked very hard on several occasions to help bring together my support network in times of need. A support network that prior to FGC I wasn't sure existed. I fully believe that without the FGC we wouldn't be progressing as positively as we are in life and would recommend it wholeheartedly to anyone facing similar difficulties.”**

James Tisshaw, Area Manager Early Help, Devon County Council:

**“I am privileged to receive monthly feedback from both professionals and families of their positive experiences of the service. Some of the testimonies, particularly from our Lifelong Links advocates, are quite simply the reason why we all want to work in this field and are testimony to the service that is offered: To make a difference for those in need.”**







## Ella Waughman Cambridgeshire County Council

Ella Waughman stood out as a social worker who is already achieving results for the people she supports that go far beyond the expectations of a newly-qualified practitioner.

After graduating from Anglia Ruskin University in 2018 with a first class master's degree, Ella was recruited to the Huntingdon Older People's Team – where she had completed her final student placement. In this role, she has navigated a variety of complex cases, many requiring her to consider mental capacity and best interest decision-making.

One quality that came up repeatedly in Ella's nomination was her calm and measured approach to her work, which has clearly been instrumental in how she builds relationships with people who use services and their families, and the good outcomes she achieves for them.

Alongside the day job, she actively promotes the wellbeing of her colleagues, by providing a 4pm tea round and arranging regular pub quiz and team walks. She also volunteers as a mentor for a rehabilitation charity and as a cricket coach for a local adult and youth team.

Ella was credited by her colleagues as making them feel "confident in the future of social work" – and she obviously has a very bright future ahead of her too.

Supported by:



**Silver Award Winner**  
Hannah Creasy, Livewell Southwest

“

Jennifer Staude, Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2018:

**“Ella is off to an incredible start in her social work career. She brings with her experience in a range of areas and a maturity that will serve her and her clients well. She has achieved so much already and it is exciting to see what Ella will bring to the profession in future.”**

Jane Haywood, Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services Award Winner 2018:

**“Wow what a woman! Academic excellence, community minded, team spirit, developed and led on service wide projects. Brilliant.”**

Feedback from family supported by Ella:

**“Thank you so very much for everything you have done for our dad. He thought you were lovely. Thank you from me doesn't seem enough for being my brick, but also for showing us and dad so much kindness, compassion and understanding.”**

Julie Dalton, Team Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council:

**“I am proud to have Ella as part of my team, I am inspired by her intelligence, her ethics, her knowledge, enthusiasm, dedication, compassion and discretion. Ella encompasses social work, with her and likewise individuals I have confidence in the future of social work. In my view Ella is 'just great'!”**



## Dan Grimes Cambridgeshire County Council

Social work runs in the family for Dan Grimes – his mum is also a Cambridgeshire social worker – and this influenced his aspiration to work alongside children and families.

After completing a criminology degree, he took up a youth worker post in Cambridgeshire's Early Help service, before moving into Education Welfare. But motivated by the desire to make a real difference, he decided working in safeguarding was the best route for him.

In his current role, Dan recognised that there were a large number of families known to the service who were struggling to understand why social care continued to be concerned about their children and he has worked to address this. His upfront and honest approach has yielded positive results, with one example being his work to support a person to leave an abusive relationship, which she remains free of and is now thriving with her baby.

Dan works in a busy frontline team which is holding higher cases following a restructure. But despite this, he also volunteers for Cambridgeshire's 'Siblings Forever' programme which supports siblings in care to spend time together. He is known for having an "infectious enthusiasm" for his work, which significantly contributes to his team's morale.

Supported by:



YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER



**Silver Award Winner**  
Penny McGee, London Borough of Islington

“

Malak Sadka, Aged 19, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board:

**“Dan demonstrates great communication skills with everyone. I think it's great that Dan is not afraid to challenge the system and advocate for what he thinks is right. This is more of a rare trait but ultimately it allows for improvement and change.”**

Lewis Roberts, BASW England Committee Member:

**“Experience in youth work and strong social justice underpinnings. Noted that able to connect with families and help them understand concerns early in the involvement. Goes above and beyond.”**

Feedback from someone supported by Dan:

**“My 11-year-old son never used to listen and we have always had female workers. My son seems to be listening to Dan. This might be because he's a man but my son seems to look up to him and is listening a lot more when Dan speaks. Dan regularly checks up with me to see how things are going and has been to meetings – he doesn't just leave me to it. It's hard to hear what he has to say sometimes, but then I know I need to hear it.”**

Debbie Sparkes, Team Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council:

**“Dan's enthusiasm for the work is infectious, he has a positive impact on his colleagues and is a significant contributor to the good team spirit/morale. Dan is always willing to volunteer for tasks, including new areas of work, which he views as learning opportunities. His practice is more advanced than what would be expected from an ASYE social worker.”**





## Teresa Barrett Livewell Southwest

The endless testimonials provided by people who use services, colleagues and members of Teresa's local community for her nomination demonstrated that she is a much-loved social worker.

Growing up with a physical disability and difficult home life, Teresa didn't have the easiest childhood. But this made her determined to help others facing similar difficulties, and she qualified as a social worker in 1981 aged 21 – the youngest on her course at the time.

During her 38-year-long career, Teresa has worked in a number of roles, including managing local care agencies and community-based services. In her current post as a hospital social worker, she has been instrumental in improving outcomes around hospital discharge and rehabilitation, including setting up an intergenerational project that involved local schoolchildren attending daily sessions with patients on physical rehab pathways.

She is credited by colleagues as "an asset beyond measure" – but what also makes Teresa stand out is the work she does in her own time, using her social work skills to support the homeless, soup runs and church-led groups for children. As one of the judges aptly commented, Teresa is a dedicated social worker who "truly lives the values of social work".

Supported by:



## Silver Award Winner Maxine Thurston, Norfolk County Council

“

Mark Trewin, Mental Health Lead, Department of Health and Social Care:

**“An incredible set of commendations and a fascinating and impressive story of a career in social work that has led this social worker to be at the core of her community and profession. Very impressive submission. Hospital social work is a very challenging role and she has clearly made such a difference to those around her.”**

Jennifer Staude, Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2018:

**“Teresa appears to have a genuine warmth and compassion, sees potential and devotes her time in both a professional and personal capacity to the betterment of her community. Teresa is rare. I wish we had more of her! But the good news is that we can – and I think we can all take a leaf out of Teresa's book. Thank you, Teresa, for what you do.”**

Feedback from someone supported by Teresa:

**“Her unique blend of humour, warmth and stoicism and her boundless hospitality both feed into, and from, her role as a social worker. However, what she has learned, experienced or put into practice would be insignificant had she not added the ‘specialness’ that is ‘Teresa’.”**

Andy Williams, Service Manager – Adult Social Care, Livewell Southwest:

**“Within the role, Teresa is an asset beyond measure, but what very few people know about Teresa, is the work that she does in the community, selflessly giving up her own evenings, weekends or holiday to support the homeless, soup runs or children and local church groups. I'm proud to have Teresa as one of my social workers but I'm humbled by the work she so quietly undertakes on behalf of others, in our communities.”**



## Joanne Worley Essex County Council

Writing assessments for court and attending hearings is known to be a challenging area of social work practice – but it's one that Joanne Worley clearly possesses a natural talent for.

From solicitors who described her reports as "comprehensive and analytical", to a Court taken by the fact that a mother and child hugged and thanked her at the end of a hearing, Joanne's nomination was littered with examples of how her skilled court work has made a positive impact on both the children and families she supports and other professionals.

Joanne has worked in Essex's Children in Care team since qualifying in 2007 and her colleagues say her greatest asset is her "stickability" – she never gives up on the children and families she works with, regardless of how difficult the circumstances may be.

Her ability to forge meaningful relationships and creative practice also shone through her nomination. She makes certificates for her children when they achieve something and tries her hand at anything and everything, from playing football to baking cakes.

Joanne is a social worker who takes the time to get to know the children she supports, and who is undoubtedly dedicated to making a lasting difference to their lives.

Supported by:



**Silver Award Winner**  
Caroline Heyworth, Essex County Council

“

Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families:  
**“Very experienced practitioner and some really nice examples of the myriad ways social workers can help and support families.”**

Louise Walker MBE, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council:  
**“Consistently positive endorsements from colleagues, partner agencies and families and carers. Love the work completed by Joanne in her own time to make a book for a child.”**

Feedback from family supported by Joanne:  
**“Thank you for giving us the support and opportunities of late, your comments on our family have overwhelmed us and made us realise we can stop putting so much pressure on ourselves, as our boys are making us so very proud each and every day and that's not going unnoticed.”**

Linda Pond, Service Manager, Essex County Council:  
**“In the everchanging face of social work and staff retention, Joanne has shown commitment and passion about the work she undertakes with children in care and their families. When progress has not looked possible Joanne has embraced the view that change can still occur with support and direct work to enable children to return home to a family member.”**





## Emma Cox Central Bedfordshire Council

"She's not just an everyday social worker" is how one person described Emma Cox, and when reading her awards nomination, it's easy to see why they drew this conclusion.

Emma was set on course for a career in social work after she made the decision to spend a year volunteering at a hospital in Romania, following the completion of her A-Levels.

The things Emma witnessed in the hospital shocked her and she stayed on for seven years, setting up a charity with her best friend to support local families and to raise funds to buy land on which orphanages for disabled children could be built. She was successful in moving all 12 of the children she met in the hospital to the first residential home built.

Today, Emma continues to support the Romanian projects alongside her current post as a senior practitioner in children's services, where she works mainly for the court team. In this role, she is considered to have an outstanding ability for relationship-based practice.

A role model for the profession both locally and globally, Emma stood out as a practitioner who truly lives and breathes the core and universal values of social work.

Supported by:



## Silver Award Winner Miranda Lynn Johnson, Birmingham City Council

“

Kuldip Kaur Kang, BASW England Committee Member:  
**“Emma represents core and universal social work values as a globalised social worker. Her passion of challenging oppression and discrimination is evident through tangible solutions and outcomes.”**

Sherry Malik, Director of Children's Services, NSPCC:  
**“I was blown away reading this application. As her colleague put it Emma is social work and this is her vocation. Her voluntary work is courageous, and her case work is exemplary. Endorsements from families are uplifting and she is a gift to central Beds!”**

Feedback from someone supported by Emma:  
**“My children still say they miss Emma and so do I. I don't think Emma realises how much of a positive impact she has made to my life and I will be forever thankful. I am still clean from drugs, I have my level 2 in counselling and am now going to begin training to be a prison officer, and I wouldn't be doing it without the confidence and the belief that Emma has in me.”**

Ann Bollard, Team Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council:  
**“Emma is an exceptional social worker who dedicates so much of her time to improving children's lives. She is highly ethical, compassionate, professional, confident and this exudes from her. Emma also has an excellent understanding of differences and diversity in our children and how they fit in to the world around them. She is able to walk alongside them and provide them with the support they need; an exceptional example of social work values in action.”**



## Carole Goodman Cafcass

As someone who has spent their lifetime dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people, Carole Goodman is a deserving winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Carole started out as a trainee probation officer in 1978 and some of her early career achievements include setting up the first Sure Start centres in the North East, and managing the first high performing youth offending team in the area. She progressed through a number of management roles at North Tyneside Council before joining Cafcass in 2008 as a head of service, becoming assistant director of the organisation in 2016.

At Cafcass, Carole is respected as a deeply caring, compassionate and approachable leader and is known for stretching the boundaries of social work practice through her innovative programmes. Her successes – to name but a few – include her work to reform the nationally commissioned services that assist children and families in private law cases, and her review of Cafcass' dispute resolution model, which helped shape the national private law programme, ultimately making children and parents safer as a result.

A devoted social worker, Carole has made a significant and lasting contribution to both central government policy and the lives of families facing breakdown.

Supported by:



## Silver Award Winner Chris Denovan, Somerset Council

“

Simon Shreeve, Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice Award Winner 2018:

**“A thoroughly committed individual who has devoted many years to improving services for separating families and developing innovative solutions to tackle operational issues. Also clearly provides a dynamic and personal approach to supporting the staff around her to get the best from them in their role.”**

Brian Walsh OBE, Trustee, The Social Work Awards:

**“A very detailed evidence-based nomination which demonstrates clearly the impact Carole has had on the service and wider afield in relation to her lead on policy work and the impact for people who use the service. Carole's personal support to colleagues is also impressive and gives the reader an impression of a candidate who is well respected both personally and professionally.”**

Laura Mills, Business Transformation Graduate, Cafcass:

**“Carole typifies the ‘no-nonsense’ approach to working. She provides unwavering support for her team and the people she works with, and has a knack for persuading people to think in new and bold ways. During the time I've worked with her, I have developed the upmost respect for her and often strive to be ‘more like Carole’.”**

Christine Banim, National Service Director, Cafcass:

**“Carole is dedicated to improving the life chances of children and young people and has been at the forefront of all the key improvements and changes in Cafcass. She is well respected by her peers, staff and external partners.”**





## Lyn Romeo Department of Health & Social Care

Lyn Romeo has an energy and passion for social work that is simply inspirational.

Growing up in rural New South Wales, Australia, the roots of a social work career began to take hold in Lyn's teenage years, when she joined a youth movement at school. Since qualifying in 1977, she has worked in a number of roles spanning the spectrum of social work, from hospital discharge and child protection, to mental health and learning disability.

For the past six years, Lyn has worked tirelessly in her post as the Chief Social Worker for Adults to highlight the value and importance of adults' social work. She has embedded the principal social worker role, battled for parity of esteem between health and social care practice, and ensured that the Care Act 2014 guidance is strengths and rights-based in its approach.

She's also made time to visit social workers in every single local authority in the country, which is no mean feat! Credited by her peers as being responsible for some of the biggest changes in adult social work practice within a generation, it's impossible to conclude that Lyn's contribution to the profession has been anything other than outstanding.

Supported by:



“

## Chosen by the Trustees

Rob Mitchell:

**“I think Lyn's main achievement is that she has worked tirelessly to put adult social work on the map. Lyn is an inspirational leader, a quiet radical, who is extremely personable and sometimes understated in her approach but tremendously impactful in terms of the change she has been able to affect. Lyn models adult social work at its best.”**

Peter Hay CBE:

**“Lyn's energy and passion for social work is inspirational and is typified by her commitment to visiting every single local authority in the country.”**

Joanna Nicolas:

**“Lyn has done so much for the profession. Always a positive ‘can do’ presence and a smiling face. Lyn has done so much to raise awareness of adult social work and her values shine though, typified by taking time out to care for her mother. Family first and social workers support families.”**



## Louise Pashley Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Louise Pashley is a social worker who has dedicated her entire career to improving the lives of young people leaving care, and to her hometown and local authority, Rotherham.

Born and bred in Rotherham, Louise always wanted to work in leaving care. After starting out as a personal advisor, she went on to qualify as a social worker and became team manager in 2012. In this role, Louise has successfully guided her team through a time of significant turbulence and scrutiny for the council, and together they have transformed leaving care from an 'inadequate' Ofsted rating in 2014 to 'outstanding' four years later.

The endorsements included with her nomination told the story of a manager who leads by example and who does not let anyone down. Her team, and the young people they support, respond to her because she is there with them every step of the way.

The judges were impressed by Louise's strength of character and how she always demands the best for care leavers. She has faced many challenges, but her commitment to leaving care services – which spans twenty years – has never faltered, and they felt this made her a deserving winner of the 2019 Overall Social Worker of the Year Award.

Supported by:



“

## Chosen by the Trustees

Gary Spencer-Humphrey:

**“Being a social worker is more than your standard 9-5 job and Louise’s nomination radiates the passion and determination needed to achieve the very best for her team and the children her team supports. Not only is she credited by younger people as being someone who listens, acts and makes a real difference, she is spotlighted by her team and senior managers as being a pivot in turning services around.”**

Jessica Beach:

**“It is clear from Louise’s nomination that her social work values and unwavering commitment to young people have been in the forefront of her practice as a team manager. It is evident from young people who Louise has directly worked with that her commitment to them, her non-judgmental approach and her desire to want the very best for them has been invaluable in providing them with the best opportunities to develop.”**

Ana Popovici:

**“Louise’s personal resilience and work passion is an example of excellence. Through persistence and focus, Louise has been able to transform minds and hearts to benefit the young people. All of this exceptional work over a sustained period of time and often in very complex circumstances. Impressive.”**



# List of finalists 2019

## Mental Health Social Worker of the Year

- Amanda Stewart, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Chloe Greenfield, North Lincolnshire Council
- Gretta Perkins, South Gloucestershire Council
- Ingrid Richardson, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
- Jessica Jones, Norfolk County Council
- Rebecca Barrow, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust
- Thea Radburn, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

## Making a Difference

- Debbie Ford, The University of Central Lancashire
- Denise Smalley, PAC-UK
- Sarah Frances, Bramley Health
- Teresa Barrett, Livewell Southwest

## Student Social Worker of the Year

- Elizabeth Dodd, University of Salford
- Eniola Obikoya, University of Gloucestershire
- Eric Konadu, London Metropolitan University
- Mary Carter, Anglia Ruskin University
- Sarah Smith, University of Lincoln

## Practice Educator of the Year

- Djamila Aggabi, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- Jacqueline Wolstenholme, Anglia Ruskin University
- Julia Becker, Achieving for Children
- Sarah Crockford, Hampshire County Council
- Shelley Gill, Durham County Council

## Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice

- Devon Prisons ASC Team, Devon County Council
- Futures Service, Leeds City Council
- 'How it looks to me' app, Cafcass
- Through Care Coventry, Coventry City Council

## Best Social Work Employer

- Leeds City Council, Children's Services
- North Yorkshire County Council, Children's Services
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Adult Services
- Suffolk County Council, Children's Services

## Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services

- Annika Leyland-Bolton, Doncaster Council
- Grayson M Ellis, Birmingham City Council
- Jack Skinner, Bradford Council
- Linzi Gow, Dorset Council
- Nichola Bennett, Suffolk County Council
- Paula Koustas, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

## Team Leader of the Year, Children's Services

- Hannah Gregory, Gloucestershire County Council
- Justin Colman, London Borough of Lambeth
- Laura Bissell, Darlington Borough Council
- Loredana Grigore, Essex County Council
- Louise Pashley, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

## Team of the Year, Adult Services

- ASC West Locality Team 3, Leicester City Council
- Cheltenham Innovation Team, Gloucestershire County Council
- Forest of Dean Innovation Team, Gloucestershire County Council
- Integrated Hospital Discharge Team, South Tyneside Council
- Learning Disability Innovation Team, Gloucestershire County Council
- Least Restrictive Practice Team, Hampshire County Council
- Mental Health Social Work Team, North Lincolnshire Council
- West Devon Community Health & Social Care Team, Devon County Council / Livewell Southwest

## Team of the Year, Children's Services

- Children and Young People's Team, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Exploitation Team, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- Family Group Conference Plus Team, including Lifelong Links, Devon County Council
- Hillingdon Adolescents Team, London Borough of Hillingdon
- Integrated Children with Disabilities Team, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- Tower Hamlets Fostering Development Team, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year

- Charlotte Norris, Focus Adult Social Work
- Ebenezer Arhin, Luton Council
- Ella Waughman, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Hannah Creasy, Livewell Southwest
- Johannes Groenewald, Suffolk County Council
- Zachary Bishop, Cornwall Council

## Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year

- Charlotte Pennell, Essex County Council
- Daniel Blanchard, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- Dan Grimes, Cambridgeshire County Council
- John Walmsley, Stockport Family
- Penny McGee, London Borough of Islington

## Adult Social Worker of the Year

- Alison Efford, Suffolk County Council
- Claire Evans, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Kelly Loan, Sunderland City Council
- Lindsey Chapman, Shropshire Council
- Maxine Thurston, Norfolk County Council
- Sarah Bowling, Essex County Council
- Sarah Hesketh, Liverpool City Council
- Stephen Musgrave, West Sussex County Council
- Teresa Barrett, Livewell Southwest
- Tilly Baden, Dorset Council

## Children's Social Worker of the Year

- Andrew Caville, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
- Arlene McCarthy, Wiltshire Council
- Brona Law, Derbyshire County Council
- Caroline Heyworth, Essex County Council
- Jane Holt, Peterborough City Council
- Joanne Worley, Essex County Council
- Leigh Butler, Central Bedfordshire Council
- Tiffany Cook, North Yorkshire County Council

## Championing Social Work Values

- Emma Cox, Central Bedfordshire Council
- Gail Faulkner, Leeds City Council
- Miranda Lynn Johnson, Birmingham City Council
- Katherine Else, Livewell Southwest
- Richmond and Wandsworth Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Team

## Lifetime Achievement Award

- Carole Goodman, Cafcass
- Chris Denovan, Somerset County Council
- Debbie Jones, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- Teresa Barrett, Livewell Southwest
- Tony Wright, Forward Assist

## Outstanding Contribution to Social Work

- Lyn Romeo, Department of Health and Social Care

## Overall Social Worker of the Year 2019

- Louise Pashley, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

## Thank you to our judges

**Anthony Douglas CBE**, Outstanding Contribution to Social Work Award Winner 2018

**Brian Mitchell**, University of Bradford

**Brian Walsh OBE**, Trustee, The Social Work Awards

**Carol Long**, Researcher, Durham University

**Caroline Waugh**, Think Local Act Personal

**Chris Dyas**, Children's Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2018

**Clenton Farquharson MBE**, Think Local Act Personal

**Dave Thomas MBE**, Central Bedfordshire Council

**Elaine James**, Bradford Council

**Emma Blakemore**, Innovate CYPs

**Esha Mokni**, Aged 15, Barnardo's

**Gary Spencer-Humphrey**, Trustee, The Social Work Awards

**George O'Shaughnessy**, Care-experienced young person

**Imogen Tutt**, Aged 16, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

**Isabelle Trowler**, Chief Social Worker for Children & Families

**Jane Haywood**, Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services Award Winner 2018

**Jennifer Staudé**, Adult Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2018

**Jessica Beach**, Trustee, The Social Work Awards

**Joanna Nicolas**, Trustee, The Social Work Awards

**Karen Maude**, Practice Educator of the Year Award Winner 2018

**Koreisha Bocus**, Aged 20, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

**Kuldip Kaur Kang**, BASW

**Lewis Roberts**, BASW

**Liam Newman**, Barnardo's Youth Colleague

**Lily Hopkins**, Essex County Council

**Liz Hewitt**, Skylakes Social Work

**Louise Walker MBE**, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

**Lyn Romeo**, Chief Social Worker for Adults

**Maha Sadka**, Aged 16, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

**Malak Sadka**, Aged 19, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

**Maris Stratulis**, BASW

**Mark Trewin**, Mental Health Social Work Lead, Department of Health and Social Care

**Olivia Terrett**, Barnardo's Youth Colleague

**Peter Hay CBE**, Chair, The Social Work Awards

**Peter Smith**, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner 2018

**Plam Kara-Lewis**, Aged 18, Cafcass Family Justice Young People's Board

**Rachel Smith**, Team of the Year, Children's Services Award Winner 2018

**Ric Flo**, Care-experienced young person

**Rob Mitchell**, Trustee, The Social Work Awards

**Sally Percival**, Think Local Act Personal

**Sharon Martin**, National IRO Managers Partnership

**Sharon Stockwell**, Team of the Year, Adult Services Award Winner 2018

**Sherry Malik**, NSPCC

**Simon Shreeve**, Creative & Innovative Social Work Practice Award Winner 2018

**Sian Miljkovic**, Student Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2018

**Vicci Livingstone-Thompson**, Inclusion Gloucestershire

**Wendy Ashton**, Making a Difference Award Winner 2018

**Zoe Betts**, iamsocialwork

**Zoe Williamson**, Mental Health and Overall Social Worker of the Year Award Winner 2018

## Working together to improve mental health and wellbeing

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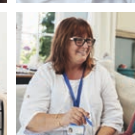
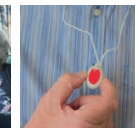
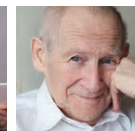
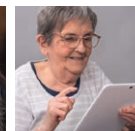
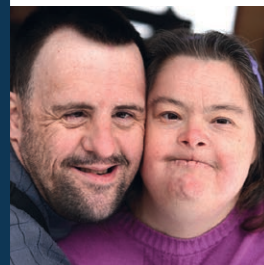
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Congratulations to all the finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2019.

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Sunderland City Council is proud to support the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2019 and congratulates all the finalists.

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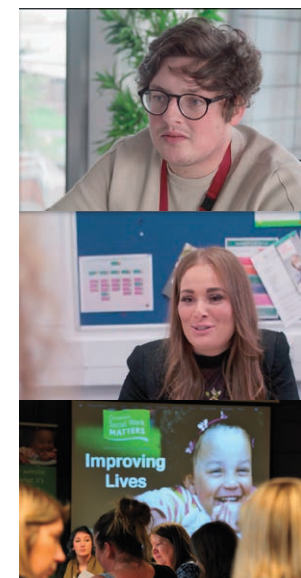
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