



Friday 3rd November 2023
The Royal Lancaster Hotel



#SWA23



@socialworkaward

www.socialworkawards.com



Welcome to the Social Worker of the Year Awards

#SWA23



Welcome to the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023

Tonight is all about you!

There is no profession quite like social work. We must help people navigate through challenging times in their lives using both our professional and personal resources. We must bring their voices to the fore using tools and advocacy. We talk a lot, but we listen a lot more. We may be seen with fondness, acceptance, fear or animosity. Whichever it is, we walk side-by-side with someone, working to get them closer to where they want to be.

There are no awards quite like the Social Worker of the Year Awards. As a not-for-profit charity set up by a social worker, the Awards exist for the positive promotion of the social work profession and for the recognition and celebration of those changing lives, systems, hearts and minds with their dedication.

We want to listen more to the ideas of the social work community, so please do tell us any thoughts you have about how we can achieve even greater recognition for the profession.

It is a profession with abundant challenges, and we know that on some days those challenges feel beyond us. With the right support from our colleagues, managers, employers and networks we can make a difference, big or small, that gives someone the strength they need to keep moving forward.

So, tonight: we see you, we recognise what goes in to your every day and we celebrate you, finalists and winners alike, for being part of the change you want to see.

Thank you to each and every sponsor for making this event possible and for standing proud in support of social workers. Thank you to our independent judges from all corners of social work who spent hours reading, rating and debating over the entries.

Finally, thank you for all the work you have put in and the skill you have shown that has got you here. We are thrilled to welcome you all.

**Peter Hay CBE, Chair of the Board of Trustees,
Social Work Awards Ltd.**

Registered in England No. 07581130
Registered Charity No. 1144458

The Board of Trustees

From top (L-R): Ana Popovici, Brian Mitchell,
Dr Clenton Farquharson MBE, Lisa Buttar,
Gary Spencer-Humphrey, Kelly Centro,
Peter Hay CBE, Rob Mitchell MBE,
Jon Glasby, Sherry Malik.

A special thanks to our Sponsors

Headline Sponsor



Category Sponsors



Corporate Partner

BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

Thank You Sponsors



Dorset
Council



Children's
Social Care
Careers



●●● **ParentAssess[®]**



Suffolk
County Council

Luton



SOCIAL WORK
DISCOVERY



west
sussex
county
council

Our Patrons

Lorraine Pascale

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



Tim Loughton MP

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



Emma Lewell-Buck MP

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



The Baroness Howarth of Breckland OBE

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



Running order

We are delighted to welcome back BBC broadcast journalist and presenter, Ashley John-Baptiste, as our special guest this evening to present the awards.

This will be Ashley's fourth time hosting the awards ceremony. As a care leaver himself, Ashley is passionate about raising the aspirations of looked-after children and fully credits his social worker for helping him get to where he is today.

18:00 – Welcome

18:30 – Take your seats

18:45 – Welcome by Peter Hay CBE, Chair of the Social Work Awards Board of Trustees

18.50 – Dinner is served

20:30 – Awards ceremony follows in the order below:

Introductions – Peter Hay CBE, Chair of the Board of Trustees – Ashley John-Baptiste, Host

- ◆ **Student Social Worker of the Year**
- ◆ **University Social Work Lecturer of the Year**
- ◆ **Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year**
- ◆ **Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year**
- ◆ **Practice Educator of the Year**
- ◆ **Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services**
- ◆ **Team Leader of the Year, Children's Services**
- ◆ **Supportive Social Work Employer of the Year**

Guest Speaker

- ◆ **Team of the Year, Adult Services (including MDTs)**
- ◆ **Team of the Year, Children's Services (including MDTs)**
- ◆ **Mental Health Social Worker of the Year**
- ◆ **Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) of the Year**
- ◆ **Digital Transformation in Social Work Award**
- ◆ **Supporting Children in Education Award**
- ◆ **Social Justice Advocate Award**

Guest Speaker

- ◆ **Children's Social Worker of the Year**
- ◆ **Adult Social Worker of the Year**
- ◆ **Lifetime Achievement Award**
- ◆ **Overall Social Worker of the Year 2023**

After the awards ceremony, a disco will follow and the evening will draw to a close at midnight.

Please note all timings are approximate and subject to change.

Thank you to our judging panel

Judging for the 2023 Social Worker of the Year Awards took place in August, when judges attended virtual and in-person sessions to decide this year's finalists and winners.

The independent judging panel was made up of:

- Leading industry professionals; invited to join the panel based upon their expertise within the social work profession.
- Young people and adults who have received support from social workers.
- Peers and colleagues (we invite a select number of winners from the previous year to join our judging panel).

All judges kindly gave up their time voluntarily.

Thank you to our judging panel

Andrew Reece

Team of the Year, Adult Services Winner 2022
and Overall Social Worker of the Year 2022

Andrew Willcox

Family Justice Young People's Board, Cafcass

Annmarie Nero

Children's Social Worker of the Year Winner 2022

Asmaat Khan

ASYE Social Worker, Essex County Council

Bethany Erikson Rodrigues

Independent Senior Social Worker

Bev Williams MBE

Founding Patron of the Social Worker of the Year Awards

Bhavna Maher

Adult Social Worker of the Year Winner 2022

Chris Ring

Supportive Social Work Employer Award
Winner 2022

Deb Solomon

Social Worker, Derbyshire County Council

Diana Harris

Chair, BASW Coventry and Warwickshire Branch

Dr Krutika Pau

Deputy CEO/Director of Children's Services,
Starlight Children's Foundation

Dr Mark Brookes MBE

Advocacy Lead, Dimensions

Eddie Dube

Advanced Practitioner (Learning Disabilities)

Fran Leddra-Chapman

Former Chief Social Worker for Adults at the
Department of Health and Social Care

Helen Southgate

Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker
of the Year Winner 2022

Ian Vinall

Independent safeguarding consultant
and reviewer

Jak Savage

Independent Employer and Social
Care Consultant

Jason Brandon

Mental Health Social Work Lead, Department
of Health and Social Care

Juliana Dinnall

Signs of Safety - Consultant Social Worker,
London Borough of Bexley

Kate Concannon

Principal Social Worker for Adult Social Care,
Southampton City Council

Kirstie Baughan

Social Justice Advocate Award Winner 2022
and Overall Social Worker of the Year 2022

Laura Fordos

Family Justice Young People's Board, Cafcass

Louise Jones

Head of Practice & Principal Social Worker,
London Borough of Wandsworth

Louise White

Service & Operations Manager – Adults &
Health Adult Safeguarding, Somerset Council

Lucy Fitzpatrick

Social Worker, Derbyshire County Council

Maris Stratulis

National Director, BASW England

Melanie Noel

Adult Social Worker of the Year Winner 2021

Nadine Boyne

Founder of Social Work DIScovery

Nikki Rutter

Teaching Fellow, Durham University

Norah Khan

Mental Health Social Worker

Patriche Bentick

Senior Practitioner, London Borough of Camden

Rachael Davies

Team of the Year, Children's Services
Winner 2022

Ryan Cowley-Sharp

Associate Director Social Work

Sharon Gouda

Social Worker, Lambeth Adult Social Services

Skerntian Keri

Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker
of the Year Silver Winner 2022

Tara Morgan

Independent Social Work Practitioner

Val Gant

University of the Year Winner 2022

Yvonne Frimpong

Social Worker



Finalists

Student Social Worker of the Year 2023

Supported by Bradford Social Work Teaching Partnership

Alex Cadoux	University of Warwick
Amy Ibbotson	Sunderland University
Aravind Satheesh	University of East Anglia
Charlotte Higgins	Manchester Metropolitan University
Karla Cappendale	West London NHS Trust Inpatient Forensic Service
Lloyd Haskins	University of Plymouth

University Social Work Lecturer of the Year 2023

Supported by Essex County Council

Bridget Caffrey	University of Chester
David Bulmer	Middlesex University / Think Ahead
Gemma Hunt	University of Warwick
Katie Küken	Anglia Ruskin University
Lynda Hughes	University of Sheffield

Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year 2023

Supported by Suffolk County Council

Angell Phoenix	Worcestershire County Council
James Hussain	Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust
Kemela McFarlane	Liverpool City Council
Nicola Harding	Cheshire West and Chester
Patrick Hamilton	Suffolk County Council
Victoria Veale	Suffolk County Council

Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year 2023

Supported by London Borough of Wandsworth

Clare Burnett	Cafcass
Ellie Taylor	Gloucestershire County Council
Kelly Bentley-Simon	Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust
Norton Dhlwayo	Achieving for Children

Practice Educator of the Year 2023

Supported by BASW

Christopher Smith-Whicker	Kirklees Children's Social Care
Gwen Bryan	University of East London
Pat Curtis	Anglia Ruskin University
Sharon Hirshman	Sheffield City Council
Suzanne Smith	Hull City Council

Team of the Year, Adult Services 2023 (including MDTs)

Supported by UNISON

Adult Central Locality Team	City of Doncaster Council
Adult Social Care Transformation Team	Derbyshire County Council
Adults with Learning Disabilities Team	South Worcestershire Worcestershire County Council
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Team	Suffolk County Council
Mental Health and Wellbeing Team	Essex County Council

Team of the Year, Children's Services 2023 (including MDTs)

Supported by London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Bridges	Devon County Council
Fair Ways Fostering Team	Fair Ways
Make a Change	Suffolk County Council
North Lincolnshire Council Fostering Team	North Lincolnshire Council
Staying Together Team	Bexley Council
Tendring Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)	Essex County Council

Supportive Social Work Employer Award 2023

Supported by Sanctuary Personnel

Cafcass
North Lincolnshire Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Together for Children Sunderland

Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services 2023

Supported by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Charlie Mason	Plymouth City Council
Corinne Avery	Norfolk County Council
Janette Ledbrook	Wokingham Borough Council
Julie Flynn	Birmingham City Council
Sandra Mak	Merton Council
Suzanne Ladlow	Suffolk County Council
Wendy Kirkman	Derbyshire County Council

Team Leader of the Year, Children's Services 2023
Supported by CSWM (Yorkshire & the Humber)

Belinda Collingwood	Essex County Council
Ben Collins	Essex County Council
Eleanor Hinchliffe	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Jane Dunne	Coventry Local Authority
Nirvana Curley	Portsmouth City Council
Sarah Vardy	Derbyshire County Council

Digital Transformation in Social Work Award 2023
Supported by ADASS West Midlands

Buckinghamshire Children's Services
Buckinghamshire Council Children's Services
Fostering Together's Team
Fostering Together - for children with disabilities
Rachael Carrott Adopt South - Hampshire County Council
Specialist Support Service Gateshead Council
Suffolk County Council Digital Care Team
Suffolk County Council

Supporting Children in Education Award 2023
Supported by Coventry City Council

Christina Addenbrooke Essex County Council
Demi Sherman North Tyneside Council
Julia Robertson Orchard Care
Kelly Arrowsmith North Tyneside Council
SWIS project - social workers in schools Anglia Ruskin University

Social Justice Advocate Award 2023
Supported by BASW

Ade Larigo Agency Connection Ltd
Elaine James Bradford Council
Jenni Guthrie Frontline

Mental Health Social Worker of the Year 2023
Supported by Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Edward Lim South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Hannah Dawson Northumberland County Council
Kim Cleaver Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Sara Galvin Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust
Wendy Giovanelli Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust

AMHP (Approved Mental Health Professional) Social Worker of the Year 2023
Supported by S12 Solutions

Andree Hindmarch Sunderland Local Authority
Katie Anderson Northumberland County Council
Kirsten Bingham Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust - Hull City Council
Krista Rathe Essex County Council
Rob Marsden Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
Stephen Roper Sefton MBC

Adult Social Worker of the Year 2023
Supported by London Borough of Havering

Abby Turk Essex County Council
Charlotte Spain North Lincolnshire Council
Jennifer Daines Wokingham Borough Council
Louise Gray Northumberland County Council
Ruth Hare Birmingham City Council Adult Social Care
Stacey Wells Warrington Borough Council

Children's Social Worker of the Year 2023
Supported by Central Bedfordshire Council

Anna Hill Wiltshire Council
Barbara Parker University Hospitals Dorset NHS Trust/Macmillan Caring Locally
Ben Chisanga Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Omaid Badar Kirklees Children's Social Care
Tia Brady-Belle Warwickshire County Council
Vicky Doolan Kirklees Local Authority

Lifetime Achievement Award 2023
Supported by Cafcass

Amanda Davies Families First Fostering
Mary Helsby Sefton Council Adult Social Care
Meera Spillett The Staff College (Associate)
Sarah Parsons Cafcass
Susan Waring Tripod - working at Somerset Council



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

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.

Making the right match

As the largest social care recruiter in the UK, we can find you a role that ticks all the boxes. By working closely with you, we take a thorough and personal approach so we can find a direct match to your skills, knowledge, experience, and future aspirations.

To register, please visit sanctuarypersonnel.com



Celebrating inspiring social workers

Firstly, on behalf of Sanctuary Personnel, I would like to thank everyone who works in social work. Your work plays an invaluable role in giving children, adults and their families and carers hope. Hope for a better, brighter future.

I am incredibly proud of Sanctuary Personnel's support of the Social Worker of the Year Awards over the years. I remember, in 2006, being wholeheartedly behind social worker Beverley Williams when she decided to create an event to exclusively highlight the achievements of social workers across the UK. Fast forward to today, and the event is now a nationally recognised celebration and a registered charity that attracts hundreds of entries every year.

The power of recognition cannot be underestimated. The Social Worker of the Year Awards give social workers a voice by highlighting the positive impact they have on individuals and communities. By acknowledging practitioners, managers, and teams for their hard work, today's celebration promotes best practice and inspires others to develop theirs.

If you are one of the people whose work is being highlighted today, very many congratulations. Your determination, compassion, creativity and resilience demonstrate that there is always a way forward.

As with the judges, I am awestruck by the many examples of creativity in practice and how, with limited resources, sustained change is possible. As a community, you are moving mountains. From the social worker who takes it upon themselves to champion a new approach to multidisciplinary teams who are redefining how services are delivered, your commitment is truly remarkable.

We can all play our part by showing our appreciation, supporting social work initiatives, and advocating for fair access to services, and the Awards recognise just this. This year's ceremony is about congratulating and acknowledging each other for your hard work and thinking creatively about overcoming the toughest of challenges.

Although I do not know every social worker personally, I am sure there are many Sanctuary Personnel social workers whose work is being celebrated today. This gives me enormous pride as I know that, in some small way, Sanctuary Personnel has played an important role in helping to make a difference in people's lives.

If you are sharing a table with a team or person you do not know, I encourage you to ask them about their social work story. I promise you will not be disappointed, as everyone has a story that will make your heart skip a beat. If we extended the invitation to those you have all helped, we would be overwhelmed with people wanting to join the celebrations.

On that note, I would like to say a big "thank you" – for your unbelievable perseverance in helping children and adults find a positive way forward. For without you, the future would look very different indeed.

Warm regards

James Rook

Chief Executive Officer
Sanctuary Personnel

BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

BASW.

By your side, every step of the way

With the British Association of Social Workers
you'll get the resources you need to develop
and protect your social work career



Discover more at
basw.co.uk

BASW England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

BASW England is proud to be the Corporate Sponsor of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023. We returned to celebrating the Awards in person last year, and the excitement in the room was electric. We know this year's Award night will be just as full of joy, triumph, energy and pride as we come together to celebrate our profession once more.

We continue to face challenging times with the cost-of-living crisis and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic increasing the pressures felt by the communities we support and impacting on our own wellbeing. In these times, it is more important than ever that we celebrate the amazing work you do, delivering 24/7 services and support for children, families, adults, and communities.

On behalf of all of BASW, thank you for your amazing work. The Social Worker of the Year Awards celebrate the shared qualities, skills, knowledge, and professionalism of social workers. Your kindness, compassion, creativity, innovation, unshakeable tenacity, commitment, and steadfast focus as you champion the needs of children, families, adults, and communities in our society is to be commended.

BASW England celebrates the social work profession in all its rich diversity and connectedness. From students and newly qualified social workers starting out on their social work careers, to educators, researchers, generic and specialist practitioners, professional leaders and experienced social workers dedicated to working in direct practice, your contributions are invaluable. In sponsoring the categories of Practice Educator of the Year and the Social Justice Advocate Award, we recognise and applaud the contributions of every social worker in the profession and will be celebrating your exceptional achievements.

As the only independent UK professional social work membership organisation, BASW provides support to social workers, and the opportunity to network with colleagues across the UK and internationally. We provide continuous professional development, toolkit resources and guidance, and professional support services, and work hard lobbying the government on the issues that matter to you. We are committed to anti-racism, anti-oppressive practice, and the active promotion of equality and diversity.

We are with you every step of the way, championing social work and helping our members achieve the highest professional standards whilst affording you a voice and continual support in the excellent work you do. BASW pledges to work tirelessly to continue supporting you and to promote the social work profession.

BASW and BASW England offer our congratulations to everyone nominated at tonight's Awards, and to all social workers for your incredible hard work and dedication.



Vava Tampa
Chair,
BASW England



Maris Stratulis
National Director,
BASW England

We are delighted to sponsor the Digital Transformation in Social Work Award for the second consecutive year.

At West Midlands ADASS, we do things that improve the experience of social care for adults who need it, their families and their carers. We host an active Principal Social Worker (PSW) Network which:

- convenes Principal Social Workers from across our 14 councils to support each other, respond to challenges, celebrate success and act as ambassadors of the role;
- strengthens the profile of social work, facilitates consistent approaches and encourages innovation; and
- engages with front line practice and communities to grow and develop social work practice in the region.

We are sponsoring this award to shine a light on the range of innovative and technology-enabled approaches that are being taken to support people to live the lives they want to lead. We hope nominees feel proud of their achievements and would like to express our appreciation for your passion, advocacy and commitment to social work.

WM ADASS Principal Social Worker Network Co-Chairs:

Andrew Errington PSW – Coventry City Council • **Seanna Lassetter** PSW – Walsall Council



Congratulations to all finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023

*We're delighted to sponsor the 'Digital Transformation
in Social Work' award for the second consecutive year*

On behalf of Bradford Council and Bradford's Social Work Teaching Partnership, we are honoured to be part of this esteemed annual event, sponsoring the category of 'Student Social Worker of the Year'.

The Bradford Social Work Teaching Partnership was launched on 4th July 2018. Membership of the partnership includes Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Bradford Children & Families Trust, and the University of Bradford. As a partnership, we believe that social work is a profession to be celebrated.

Good social work is often discreet in order that it upholds confidentiality and maintains the dignity of those people who require social work support. In Bradford, we ensure that is the case, but also believe that it is right to celebrate the successes of social work support, too. The aim of the partnership is to work collaboratively to pool skills and resources to provide high quality training and developmental opportunities for social work students and qualified practitioners. Excellence in social work practice is at our heart and the aim is to continue to build on existing strong relationships to ensure that children, vulnerable adults and their families in Bradford receive the support and protection they need.

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

Finally, as sponsors of the Student Social Worker of the Year award, we wish to thank all those who support social work and wish every social work student good luck and thank them for choosing social work.

THIS IS OUR TIME, OUR PLACE



Bradford is UK City of Culture 2025, delivering 1,000 new performances and events, 365 artist commissions, a series of major arts festivals as well as exciting national and international collaborations.

Its themes will be rooted in the unique heritage and character of Bradford and will reveal the magic of the district that is held in its people, its ambition, and above all, its potential.

As the UK's youngest city, our district is alive with energy, enterprise and potential, and is home to some of the finest cultural assets and landscapes in the country.

- City Park, an award-winning public and events space
- The world's first UNESCO City of Film
- National Science & Media Museum
- UNESCO World Heritage site – Saltaire village

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



We are privileged to be a part of this year's Social Worker of the Year Awards and to sponsor the Lifetime Achievement Award.

A lifetime in social work means building and sustaining many relationships with adults and children in difficulty. It means investing time, kindness and hope that things can change. It means working without a crystal ball or rule book, but instead with patience, huge skill, courage and determination. It means being accountable for a lasting professional judgement about what is in an adult or child's best future interests.

Taking time to recognise the contributions and help that social workers give to others is simply time well spent and we are delighted to be the sponsor of this award for an individual who will most certainly be remarkable. Cafcass is the largest employer of children's social workers in England. We work across the country representing some 140,000 children in private and public law proceedings every year. We are proud of what our family court advisers and children's guardians do to support the work of the family courts.

To support and promote the importance of relationship-led practice, we have developed 'Together for Children and Families'. As our practice framework, it is enabling us to do the right things for children and to provide a working environment that enables us all to do our best work. We are an ambitious organisation, proud of our achievements. But we are wanting to do more because that is what children and their families deserve – the best of us, in every contact, every time and wherever they live.

If you come to work with Cafcass, you will experience kindness, clear decision making, the opportunity to work as a court appointed adviser with the benefit of skilled management support and leadership. You will have a voice and you will be a voice for children. You will develop professionally and you will be part of something special. Well done to everyone shortlisted for this award and very especially to the overall winner!



Be their voice



Please scan this QR code
to find out more about
working for Cafcass.

At Central Bedfordshire Council, we are immensely proud to be involved in the prestigious Social Work Awards 2023. I believe wholeheartedly in the transformative power of social work and am delighted that we are sponsoring the Social Worker of the Year Awards this year.

As a social worker myself, I know social work is not just a profession, but a vocation that demands an extraordinary blend of skill, empathy, and resilience. The work undertaken by social workers across the nation is invaluable. Often in the most challenging circumstances, they advocate for and provide the support needed to some of the most vulnerable among us. They act as lifelines, offering the right support at the right time, and are instrumental in people's lives.

Up and down the country, social workers devote their lives to making a tangible difference. Their work often goes unseen, uncelebrated, but the impact they make on individuals, families, and communities is indelible. All of us at Central Bedfordshire Council acknowledge this remarkable work and want to express our heartfelt gratitude.

Last year, our very own Kirstie Baughan won two awards, and I'm very much looking forward to hearing about the achievements from this year's nominees. Congratulations to everyone who has been nominated. Your dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of others has not gone unnoticed.

Good luck and here's to a memorable Social Work Awards 2023!

Sarah-Jane Smedmor

Director Children's Service, Central Bedfordshire Council

**Find your
greatness**

- work at Central
Bedfordshire Council

"WITH FEWER CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE
TO SUPPORT I'VE GOT
MORE TIME TO HELP
JOE SMILE
AGAIN."



Children's social work at Central Bedfordshire Council

We want every child and young person in Central Bedfordshire to have a safe and happy childhood. Which is why we'll help you find your greatness, by giving you more time to spend with the children you are responsible for.

When you combine this with our excellent management support, training and development, you'll contribute to an excellent service, and share our ambition.

**Sign up to job alerts and find out more about working
at Central Bedfordshire Council**



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs



@CBCouncil_jobs and find us on

Linked



Central
Bedfordshire

**great
people**



Coventry City Council

Coventry City Council is very proud to sponsor the category of 'Supporting Children in Education' at this year's Social Worker of the Year Awards, and to celebrate the outstanding achievements in this area.

We are passionate about supporting children to thrive in education and empowering them with confidence to help them make this happen. In order for Coventry to be the best place in the UK for children and young people to learn and grow, the Child Friendly Cov campaign was launched in 2023 to make Coventry a child- and young person-friendly city, ensuring that Coventry is a place where children and young people are valued, supported, and enjoy themselves supporting children in education is a key part in achieving this.

Children and young people in Coventry should always:

- be and feel valued
- have opportunities
- be and feel safe
- be and feel healthy

Coventry Children's Services values a working culture that is relational and restorative in nature. The launch of the Coventry Family Valued Programme in April 2021 enabled us to re-focus practice in the best interests of children, supporting children to flourish in their families and communities.

We are proud to be sponsoring the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023, recognising the crucial role social workers bring to children in education, and making children and young people realise their aspirations to dream big and achieve their goals.

Neil Macdonald

Director of Children's Services

Coventry Children's Services is proud to sponsor the Social Worker of the Year Awards

and congratulates all the finalists on their outstanding achievement to great practice

Why Coventry?

Join us in Coventry and you'll be delivering on the ground support to families with all the support and resources you need to do it. You will build on the progress we've made in the last two years and work with colleagues who are passionate about the city, its people and its exciting prospects. For more information come and speak to our staff or visit

www.coventry.gov.uk/socialworkjobs




Coventry City Council
Children's Services


Ofsted
Good
Provider

Great leadership is key to supporting frontline practitioners in this challenging and highly rewarding profession. These Awards always provide a vital opportunity for social workers to come together and celebrate the positive changes they make across the country.

This year, we're proud to be sponsoring the Team Leader of the Year, Children's Services category.


Congratulations to everyone being recognised for your contribution and achievements and to social workers at every stage of their careers who all deserve recognition for the hard work they do to support families and keep children safe.

On behalf of the Directors across Yorkshire & the Humber, thank you for everything that you do and keep being amazing.

Carly Speechley, Executive Director of Children's Services at Barnsley Council, and lead Director for Children's Social Work Matters

'Children's Social Work Matters' (CSWM) is our regional programme to attract and support children's social workers and improve social work practice. The programme sees all fifteen local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber working together to share good practice, learn from each other and drive improvement. It's also about improving the understanding, image and value of the profession.

Read more at <http://www.childrensocialworkmatters.org>



Developing and supporting our social workers to achieve better outcomes for children and young people

Children's
Social Work
MATTERS

YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER

Our local authorities across Yorkshire & the Humber continue to work hard collectively to nurture and support our children's social work workforce. As well as seeing staff grow in confidence and resilience, investment in local and region wide training and development, and offering good career progression opportunities, is improving our delivery of modern-day practice and our ability to make a difference in children's and families' lives.

Our campaigns – '[Inspiring people into social work](#)' and '[Improving lives](#)' - also give social workers a voice, showcase their invaluable work, and challenge misconceptions around the profession. The campaign stories illustrate how good social work practice can bring about transformational change in the lives of vulnerable children and young people.

To see more on why Yorkshire & the Humber is a great place to be a children's social worker and to check out available [jobs in the region](#), visit: www.childrensocialworkmatters.org



Essex County Council

At Essex County Council we wholeheartedly recognise the importance of social care colleagues and of social care practice. That is why we are thrilled to be a sponsor of these Awards and this year sponsor the new University Lecturer of the Year Award.

Working in social care can be one of the best jobs in the world but as you all know, one of the toughest. Social workers are usually working with individuals, families, children and young people at a time when they are in crisis or need them the most. It is a very privileged role we play in helping others and in trying to make a difference to their worlds, and one we should all be proud of. Being able to recognise and celebrate the fantastic work and achievements of social care professionals is something very special and so well deserved. Long may it continue.

Congratulations to all of you nominated. We hope you enjoy the celebrations, and we wish you all the very best of luck.

Helen Lincoln

Executive Director for Children,
Families and Education (DCS)



Nick Presmeg

Executive Director, Adult Social Care (DASS)
Essex County Council



Essex County Council

Essex County Council are proud to support the

Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023

www.essex.gov.uk



Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (LSCft) is delighted to be the first NHS Trust to sponsor the Social Work Awards and the first to also sign up to Social Care Futures. At LSCft, we see the value in social work, and that's shown in the fact that out of our 7,000-strong workforce, over 200 are social workers. This makes us the largest Trust employer of social workers within the UK.

We recognise the valuable contribution social work plays in supporting public health and the physical care of service users and we're excited to embed social work within our five-year forward view plan.

This includes signing up to Research in Practice and setting up social work apprenticeships for the first time in conjunction with Manchester Metropolitan University. We've created six social work apprenticeships this year, with the expectation of six more in March 2024, and six in September 2024.

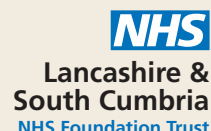
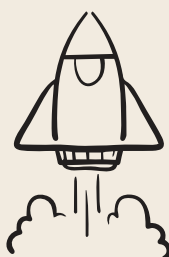
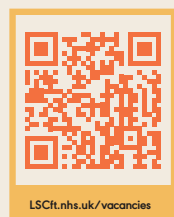
As sponsors of the Mental Health Social Worker of the Year category, we wish to say good luck to all those nominated. Regardless of the outcome, you are all making a difference to people's lives, and you should be truly proud of your efforts and commitment.

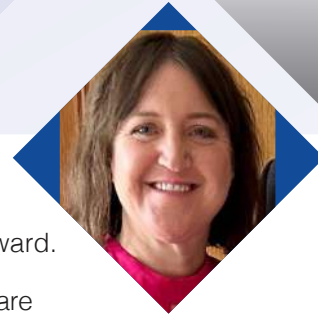
To find out more about Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust and to check out our latest vacancies, head to: lscft.nhs.uk/vacancies

We do more to support our colleagues

In Lancashire and South Cumbria, we do more to recognise, support and develop social workers who are very much a valued part of our workforce, and enable them to strengthen the skills and core values intrinsic to social work.

Start with a good job and end with a great career. Search lscft.nhs.uk/vacancies or scan the QR code





Hammersmith and Fulham Council is proud to be sponsoring the Team of the Year, Children's Services Award.

Every day, across every corner of the country, dedicated teams are helping to shape the futures of countless children, young people, and their families. This prestigious award honours and celebrates the remarkable efforts of teams that bring about transformational impacts and change.

At Hammersmith and Fulham, we value teamwork, firmly believing in the adage that 'Together Everyone Achieves More'. Our workforce tells us that what they most appreciate about working in H&F is the team culture – everybody is valued, and opinions are not just heard, but embraced and constructively challenged. We know that with inspirational colleagues and strong supportive managers, teams can achieve positive outcomes.

Central to our success is the well-established Systemic Practice model. This places emphasis on relationships at the core of family-focused change. These relationships include teamwork and peer support which are at the heart of outstanding social work practice, and value practitioners.

We hope that all children's social work teams recognised at the 2023 Awards feel justly proud of their achievements. We'd also like to acknowledge our deep appreciation to all teams who work tirelessly to improve the lives of children and families.

Amana Gordon

Operational Director Children and Young People Service



Artwork by
H&F young
people

H&F are proud to sponsor the Team of the Year Award.

H&F is a great place to work with a strong development offer.

It's an exciting time to join us with opportunities to work in a range of teams with different specialism.

<https://hammersmithchildrensjobs.com/>





Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

Havering, as a London Borough, is 43 miles square with a population of 262,000, on the edge of London, between the bustle of the city and surrounding Essex countryside. Abundant green spaces attract people to live and work here. We have one of the highest populations of older people aged 65+ in London, and one of the fastest growing child populations in the country.

We are delighted to be sponsoring this year's Adult Social Worker of the Year Award, as social work plays a vital role in improving the lives of people and families. Havering has a vibrant culture and an increasingly diverse community. We promote dynamic and innovative work with people: the Better Living strengths-based model in Adult Social Care, and a Face-to-Face Systemic approach in Children's. We encourage and support people we work with to remain as independent as possible, tapping into existing circles of support, like family, friends and local connections, getting the advice and support they need.

We are committed to the development and progression of staff within Havering with a corporate commitment to '10 days of learning' and extensive learning and development opportunities through our Social Care Academy.

We sponsor programmes like Social Work Apprenticeships, Step Up, Frontline, ASYE, CPD and Leadership. We're proud of what we do, developing and honing talent – many staff have progressed to become senior leaders in Havering.

Annette Kinsella

Director of Ageing Well



Kate Dempsey

PSW, Adults & Children



Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

BetterLiving
Life your way



Pictured: Havering Adults Access Team

**CHOOSE
HAVERING**

Visit: havering.gov.uk/homepage/14/jobs

Wandsworth is delighted to support the Social Worker of the Year Awards. We want to thank every social worker who is committed to making a difference, supporting and advocating for children and families in our communities. Through these awards we celebrate your hard work and phenomenal impact.

There is nothing more important in improving outcomes than social workers' ability to build strong, supportive relationships with children and their families. It takes vision, compassion, hope, understanding, tenacity, and skill to successfully connect and build the trust of people who have previously felt let down or failed by services. That is what makes social work such an incredible profession, one that believes in the human value of vulnerable people to live their best possible lives.

In Wandsworth, we know our social workers are our greatest asset, and to help them deliver their absolute best, we've developed our Outstanding Practice Framework. This articulates a clear and straightforward vision of how we will work with families and the values underpinning our practice. We recognise that families are resourceful and have strengths, and that by harnessing and building on these we will support their capacity to change without creating an overdependence on our services or unnecessary intervention in their lives.

We are very proud of the practice achievements we have made, and through our implementation of Family Safeguarding, we've developed an approach where multi-disciplinary specialist practitioners are co-located within children's social work teams. This enables our work to have a whole family focus with the aim to keep children safely at home.

We hope that these awards will inspire and encourage further interest in the social work profession.



Join our vibrant team, championing the interests of our diverse communities, creating lasting change through empathy, care and equality.

Find out more about working for Wandsworth Council, visit: [wandsworth.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers)

Designed and produced by Richmond and Wandsworth Design & Print • wdep@wandsworth.gov.uk • CS1965(8.23)



**Wandsworth
Children's
Services**



The S12 Solutions team and I are incredibly proud to sponsor the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) of the Year category, introduced for the first time at this year's Awards.

We hear from the AMHPs using our platform that it's been a really difficult year. AMHP Services have always had to overcome challenges but before, we would be dealing with perhaps one or two significant challenges at a time; in current conditions, all aspects of the role seem to be challenging simultaneously, exacerbated by depleted resources and the pandemic backlog, leaving AMHP services feeling overwhelmed.

Consequently, situations that would have been unheard of before are becoming commonplace. We hear that fourteen days often come and go now without AMHP applications being made. Emergency departments are frequently used as places of safety. AMHPs routinely do six or more mental health act assessments in a day. In some cases, changes happen so incrementally, we do not always notice how far the role has adjusted and how busy AMHPs are, in a system that sometimes feels like it's working against them. But as always, AMHPs keep going.

Being an AMHP is an incredibly demanding, complex job, which often goes unrecognised; this is why we're so pleased to see the Social Worker of the Year Awards celebrate AMHPs' achievements in a dedicated category, and we are thrilled to be its sponsor.

On behalf of our team, I would like to congratulate all nominees, finalists and the AMHP of the Year.

Amy Manning

AMHP and Founder, S12 Solutions

Congratulations to all winners, finalists and nominees. You are amazing.

Proud AMHP of the Year category sponsors.





Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) recognises the hard work of social workers who are committed to protecting vulnerable adults, children and young people.

The Social Worker of the Year Awards are an excellent opportunity to highlight the work social workers do in what can be a challenging yet rewarding profession. We're delighted to be involved again. We're proud to sponsor the Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services award category, to honour those who make a positive difference to others. It's inspiring to see the difference good leadership makes.

Social workers often go about their role in an unassuming way, not expecting recognition for their work, so the Awards are a fantastic way to give them appreciation. We congratulate everyone across the country who has been nominated. The Borough of Stockton-on-Tees is home to 200,000 people, and we strive to make it a place where people are healthy, safe, and protected from harm. We engage with individuals, families, carers, and communities when developing adult social care, and recognise the role social workers play.

For more about careers in adult social care and children's social work including current vacancies, please visit www.stockton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training

We hope that everyone attending has a wonderful evening.

Carolyn Nice Director of Adults, Health & Wellbeing at SBC

In Stockton-on-Tees we strive to ensure everyone is healthy, safe and protected from harm. Start your rewarding career with us today.



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Find out more about a career in social care with us at
www.stockton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training**

Suffolk County Council is delighted to be sponsoring the Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year Award.

We are proud of the investment we make in our staff to ensure they have the skills, time, and support to improve the lives of Suffolk residents, with our highly successful Apprentice Social Worker programme and strong CPD offer.

Creating a culture where people can excel, while maintaining a healthy work-life balance, is important to us, and we are proud of our work to promote a diverse workforce, which is embedded in our organisational values.

We work within an exemplary practice framework, which encompasses Signs of Safety, trauma informed practice and restorative approaches and are leading the way in our cutting-edge care technology service and integrated working.

What makes us successful is our brilliant staff. Thank you – you are all truly amazing.

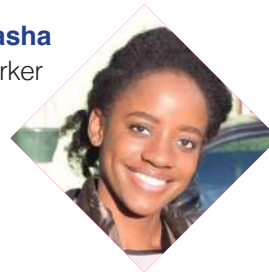
Georgia Chimbani

Director of Adult
and Community
Service



Amanda Takavarasha

Principal Social Worker



Reimagine Social Work

We understand the power of keeping people independent for longer, we acknowledge people are experts in their own care, and we have placed Suffolk at the forefront of the digital care revolution sweeping through social care.

In Suffolk people are at the heart of everything we do, and our staff are the foundation of who we are as an organisation. We have strong values in diversity and inclusion and are proud of our disability confident leader status, our work to promote a racially diverse workforce and our active staff networks.

So, if you are looking for new career challenges with an ambitious and innovative employer, if you want to drive your career forwards with strong supportive career development and training opportunities, and if you want to work in a beautiful county where you can put people at the heart of your practice.



UNISON is very happy once again to be involved in this year's Social Worker of the Year Awards and to be presenting the Team of the Year, Adult Services Award.

Social workers have responded with extraordinary effort, determination and skill to everything that has been thrown at them in recent years – from the pandemic to the cost-of-living crisis. This has been on top of their normal vital work in supporting and protecting individuals and communities. We are really pleased that through these awards they are receiving some well-deserved recognition for the work they've done.

As the UK's largest trade union for social workers and the wider social care workforce, we know the challenges social workers face and the differences they make to people's lives. As an organisation built on solidarity and togetherness, UNISON would like to pay tribute to the social work teams that practice effective team-working on a daily basis. Great teamwork, alongside high-quality professionalism, is at the heart of excellent public service and social work.

We also applaud the social workers across the country who are taking a stand through UNISON against the wider challenges facing the profession – economic difficulties, rising demand for services and growing caseloads. The fight for better working conditions and genuine development opportunities will result in better services for the public.

UNISON hopes that all the attendees have a fantastic evening.

Mike Short

National Secretary, UNISON



ESSENTIAL COVER WHEREVER YOU WORK

From
£1.30
a month

Worried about your job?
In these uncertain times there's never
been a better time to join UNISON.

For as little as £1.30 a month our members get:

- advice, support and help at work
- a helpline that is open until midnight
- legal help for you at work and your family at home
- plus a wide range of exclusive member discounts.

Annual salary	Monthly cost
Up to £2,000	£1.30
£2,001 – £5,000	£3.50
£5,001 – £8,000	£5.30
£8,001 – £11,000	£6.60
£11,001 – £14,000	£7.85
£14,001 – £17,000	£9.70
£17,001 – £20,000	£11.50
£20,001 – £25,000	£14.00
£25,001 – £30,000	£17.25
£30,001 – £35,000	£20.30
over £35,000	£22.50

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

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



The Social Worker of the Year Awards 2024.

Do you know an inspirational social worker or team?
If so, sign up to our mailing list to be the first to hear
when nominations for **SWA24** will open.

Place your organisation in front of thousands
of social workers and key decision makers
in 2024 by becoming one of our sponsors.



To find out more about sponsorship packages,
sign up to our mailing list or email
awards@socialworkawards.com





The Social Work Awards Ltd.
Registered in England No. 07581130
Registered Charity No. 1144458
socialworkawards.com