



social WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

2022
WINNERS



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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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Gold Award Winner

Solomon Tugbiyele Anglia Ruskin University

Solomon Tugbiyele has shown incredible determination and commitment to achieve his goal of becoming a social worker.

He started this journey as a student full of self-doubt about his ability to complete the more academic elements of the course due to dyslexia. He will be completing it having passed all modules with distinction, graduating with first class honours.

Solomon's skills really shone on placement. At his first, in a rural primary school, he was credited with being instrumental in changing the school culture and delivering an anti-racist whole-school initiative. He also helped to demystify social work by spending time at the school gates, using his calm and warm approach to engage with families.

Solomon made an equally good impression working in adult social care. In one case, he successfully supported a couple to overcome a carer crisis until more formal provision could be arranged. The couple praised Solomon for his ability to nurture, care for and work in partnership with them. He also received high praise from colleagues for his composure and professionalism in handling the sudden loss of a service user.

Described by his educators as outstanding, memorable and 'all that a practice educator could wish for', Solomon was a stand out candidate for this year's award.

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COUNCIL

Silver Award Winner

Momoh Etunu Suleman, University of Bradford

Gold Award Winner

University of Chester

The University of Chester's social work department has truly embedded itself in the local community, ensuring those around it directly benefit from social work.

The department prides itself on involving people with lived experience of social work in its programmes, and encourages students to support a range of local services, such as foodbanks and carers centres. During the pandemic, students developed a project to support homeless people to have a hot meal and change of clothes. The importance of these close local links is reflected in the University's excellent employment statistics, with many students opting to remain working in the area after completing their studies.

Students also benefit from a passionate and supportive team of staff, many of whom are actively involved in research. Social Work England recently praised the research environment offered by the University, which is clearly having a positive impact as a number of students have been published in peer reviewed journals.

Perhaps the most telling though is the feedback from social work students, who described the University as a place they felt 'respected, heard and understood' and the experience on offer as 'unbelievably positive' and 'nothing other than exceptional'.

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Silver Award Winner

Oxford Brookes University

Gold Award Winner

Helen Southgate
Suffolk County Council

Helen Southgate stood out as a practitioner who is immensely dedicated to both improving the lives of the adults she supports and her own development as a newly qualified worker.

After achieving a MA with Distinction and an award for the best dissertation, she joined the adult integrated social work team where she had already spent time as a student. In this role, Helen has received high praise for her grasp of social work legislation, the quality of her mental capacity assessments, and her social work values and professionalism.

Helen is known among her colleagues for bringing an 'infectious' energy and enthusiasm to the team. Alongside her day-to-day work she has taken on the role of digital lead, which involves attending regular meetings on technology and sharing the knowledge she gains. She actively seeks out opportunities to further her professional development too, including undertaking additional training on Signs of Safety and shadowing other staff.

Helen has also successfully navigated an incredibly complex case involving a young adult who suffered a stroke, achieving a positive outcome. This did not go unnoticed by more senior staff, who described Helen's level of empathy and approach to empowering the individual as 'outstanding'. She is clearly a credit both to her team and the profession.

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Gold Award Winner

Amy White
Essex County Council

Amy White's passion for giving children a voice shone through her nomination.

Starting her career in a children's centre, Amy later became a children and young people's support worker within the children with disabilities team, before undertaking her social work training. Since rejoining the team as a qualified worker, she has strived to ensure that the barriers to children expressing their views, wishes and feelings are truly broken down and has developed a number of initiatives to achieve this. This has included creating a One Page Profile for each social worker within the team to share with their children and families upon allocation, to help reduce anxieties ahead of a social work visit, and a direct work pack, which was described by her manager as 'outstanding'.

Amy has also taken on the extra responsibility of becoming her team's SEND champion, a role through which she has developed resources for children with special educational needs, and has been a strong advocate for joint working with other agencies.

Amy was credited by her colleagues as a social worker who makes you feel that 'the future of social work is in safe hands' – and it's clear she has a bright future ahead too.

Supported by:



YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER

Joint Silver Award Winners

Anna Boddy, City of York Council
Sehrish Zeb, Essex County Council

Joint Silver Award Winners

Mi-Gyung Kim, Achieving for Children
Skerntian Keri, Wiltshire Council

Gold Award Winner

Carolyn Smith Wakefield Council

Carolyn Smith is a dedicated practice educator who takes the time to really get to know her students, placing their learning needs at the heart of all she does.

Starting her role as ASYE and student lead for Wakefield Council's Learning Academy in the midst of the pandemic in April 2020, Carolyn has made remarkable changes to the organisation's offer for newly qualified social workers.

This has included delivering specialist coaching and mentoring, ensuring students are matched with the best placement for them, and supporting with job applications and interview preparation. During the national lockdowns, she also offered weekly personal and reflective supervision to every student and ASYE. As a result, 80% of final year students became ASYEs with Wakefield in 2020, 89% of final placement students became ASYEs in 2021, and 94% of final year students applied for ASYE posts with Wakefield in 2022.

Carolyn's development of Wakefield's learning programme and work on recruitment is all the more notable given that it took place during a period of significant transformation for the local authority, which had received an inadequate rating in July 2018. In November last year, Wakefield moved to good with outstanding leadership.

Valued by colleagues and students alike as a leader who goes above and beyond, Carolyn is a credit both to Wakefield Council and the social work profession.

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Silver Award Winner Roz Ryder, Shropshire Council

Gold Award Winner

The Team around Kasibba* Camden Integrated Learning Disability Service

Kasibba*, a Black African woman who has Autism, has been inappropriately detained in a mental health hospital all her adult life. Here, her quality of life has been allowed to reduce and a racist narrative that she is 'dangerous' to develop around her. In August this year, a judge was expected to agree that she could finally be released into her own home.

This is down to the huge courage and determination of the multidisciplinary team around Kasibba, who have worked tirelessly for six years to achieve this outcome for her.

The work was borne out of Camden's involvement in the Named Social Worker Pilot, which saw a model of relationship-based practice developed within the authority to ensure all people detained in hospital have a dedicated social worker. Kasibba's social workers have worked alongside a clinical psychologist, nurse consultant, rights based advocate, learning disability nurse, community consultant psychiatrist and commissioners.

The team's entry described how after an assessment by the clinical psychologist put Kasibba's behaviours in the context of her sensory needs for the first time, they were able to begin to change the narrative around her and put a plan in motion for her independence.

In the past, moving Kasibba into the community had been regarded as 'too difficult'. But despite facing insurmountable challenges at times, this team has proved that with the right team, resources and resolve, the unachievable can be achieved.

*Not their real name.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner Enhanced Support Team, Derbyshire County Council

Gold Award Winner

Families First Fostering

Motivated by their passion for making a positive difference to the lives of children and young people, mother and daughter team Amanda and Rachael Davies set up their independent fostering agency at the height of the pandemic in May 2020.

The pair, who are both social workers with a combined 50 years of experience between them, have gone on to successfully recruit 19 fostering families and a stable team of social workers, family support workers, a business support administrator and a therapist.

So far, Families First has provided therapeutic fostering placements to 34 children and has excelled at supporting siblings to remain together, with over 70% of children placed with a sibling. The majority of children have also been placed in long-term placements.

At its first inspection earlier this year, the agency was praised by Ofsted for the stability of its placements and for exuding 'a family feel' where all staff, including Amanda and Rachael, know the foster carers and children well, with the service rated 'good' overall.

Families First is clearly valued by foster carers, children and other professionals alike, with the testimonials submitted in support of their nomination describing a team that is always supportive, professional, child-centred and like 'one big family'.

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Silver Award Winner

24/7 In The Home Programme Team, Advanced CCA

Gold Award Winner

Children's Social Care Durham County Council

Durham County Council's commitment to investing in its social work workforce and developing an open and supportive culture has yielded impressive results on retention.

The authority has worked hard to improve social work supervision, updating its supervision framework to include a greater focus on wellbeing, as well as commissioning external reflective sessions that can be accessed by both individuals and teams. Managers and leaders have also been supported to ensure they have the skills and information to have important conversations with staff about how they may be feeling and their wellbeing.

Another notable development has been the creation of a Leadership Academy to support all team and children's homes managers, which was recently recognised by Ofsted as 'impressive', as was the council's ASYE academy for newly qualified workers. The council received an 'outstanding' rating for the impact of its leaders on social work practice.

The council has also supported the development of a number of peer support networks. This includes one for Black and ethnic minority staff which has grown from three members to around 20, as well as networks for LGBT staff and staff who are carers.

Durham children's services has strived to make its employees feel valued and their success is borne out in the statistics – the department now boasts vacancy, turnover and agency rates all lower than the national average.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner

Children and Young People Service, Wakefield Council

Gold Award Winner

Lucy Hunt Devon County Council

Lucy Hunt is a team manager who doesn't shy away from a challenge. At a time when the learning and physical disabilities locality team she heads up was experiencing a 30% increase in safeguarding activity, a 40% combined waiting list increase, and a 20% staff vacancy rate, Lucy still found the time and inspiration to develop a new model of practice.

The Crisis and Review model uses a path approach to person-centred planning and aims to reduce waiting list times and numbers, increase reviews, develop service user participation and promote staff wellbeing. It's been in place for six months and already the team are on target to complete 73% of reviews for adults aged 18 to 65, have reduced the waiting list by 82%, and achieved a saving of £90,000 for the local authority.

Lucy is also ensuring that other areas of the service can benefit from this new approach to practice, by developing it for use with different client groups and offering peer sessions to other team managers. The model has piqued the interest of students and newly qualified staff too, with many approaching Lucy with a request to join her team.

Valued by colleagues for her commitment to human rights, coaching and organisational skills, and ability to bring out the best in practitioners, Lucy is an inspirational leader.

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Joint Silver Award Winners

Tom Woodd, Devon County Council and Devon Partnership NHS Trust
Ian Hall, Northumberland County Council

Gold Award Winner

Cheryl Grazette Hertfordshire County Council

Starting out as a community worker at the age of 20, Cheryl Grazette put herself through social work training while raising a small child, and has gone on to establish a strong track record of managing stable child protection teams, even in times of great challenge.

In her current role as service manager for practice development, Cheryl is responsible for the practice development of four services across the county, including child protection, child looked after and specialist young people services.

She also works as a practice educator and her passion for educating the future child protection workforce is reflected in the amount of students who have gone on to apply to Hertfordshire for their ASYE year, with a specific request to join Cheryl's team.

What really made Cheryl's nomination stand out though is the importance she places on the morale of her team members and the service as a whole. Her colleagues described a manager who always supports them to see the positives and feel valued and appreciated, even when they are burned out and low. She also further boosts their confidence by finding the time to collate positive feedback from service users and compliments on practitioners from across the service, sending these out in a monthly newsletter.

Cheryl is widely regarded as a nurturing and creative social worker and manager, who has dedicated her life to safeguarding children.

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Silver Award Winner

Ayshea Dalby, Leicestershire County Council

Gold Award Winner

Hull City Council

Kingston Upon Hull's Children in Care Council has led the creation of two digital projects that truly have the 'wow' factor and have already led to tangible service improvements.

The first, a hard-hitting podcast, explores the experiences of children when there is a change of social worker and how painful this transition can be when not well planned. Staff have reflected on how the podcast makes them feel and discussed how they will adapt their practice as a result. It has also been used to produce new standards for change of social worker, and is being used routinely in social work induction, including for students.

The second, an animated short film produced by My Pockets and entitled 'Dream on', tells the story of a child waking up in care for the first time. It was created by the council's children and young people and narrated by a young looked after child. The film has received high praise, not just within the local authority, but across the nation too, with more than 2,000 views on YouTube so far. Following its premiere, chief social worker Isabelle Trowler tweeted: 'This is so worth seeing before you start your working week everyone'.

The digital transformation delivered by Kingston Upon Hull is moving and uplifting, and most importantly, it has the voices of children front and centre.

Supported by:



Joint Silver Award Winners

Festival of Learning, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Adult Learning Disabilities and Innovation Team, Norfolk County Council

Gold Award Winner

Charlotte Elliot Devon County Council

Charlotte Elliot's nomination described a tenacious and creative social worker whose commitment and dedication towards young people is 'second to none'.

Charlotte is based in a secondary school and works closely with the pastoral team, pupil coaches and the dedicated safeguarding lead to provide support to children. In this role she has worked incredibly hard to encourage educators to think holistically and understand the value of a restorative and relational approach, which her colleagues say has 'completely changed' how the school supports children to be present in their learning.

Charlotte also started the role during the pandemic and has worked through more than one lockdown, but despite this extra challenge she supported children to continue their education in school and has consistently achieved positive outcomes.

What really stood out about Charlotte is how she instills confidence in the children she supports and encourages them to dream big. She has supported children to attend school where this was previously not happening and has ensured that they benefit from bespoke educational packages. But Charlotte also looks beyond this and places a strong focus on supporting her young people to realise all their aspirations. As a result, there is a 'real sense' from their families that the children can achieve their goals and dreams.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner

Samantha Gilham, London Borough of Camden

Gold Award Winner

Kirstie Baughan Central Bedfordshire Council

Kirstie Baughan has dedicated much of her own time to promoting justice and raising awareness for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people.

Alongside her busy role as audit manager at Central Bedfordshire's children's services, Kirstie is the volunteer regional lead for Care4Calais and volunteers as an assessor for Refugees at Home to ensure asylum seekers are placed somewhere safe.

Kirstie remained committed to providing this support throughout the challenges of the pandemic – delivering English classes across the country during the national lockdowns, both online and in person, and visiting local asylum seekers. She has also organised day trips, including to nature spots and to London, advocated for better food provision in hotels and supported young people to advocate their needs to mental health services.

Kirstie has undertaken a Post Qualifying Master's degree in Applied Social Work and her dissertation – based on experiences of social workers volunteering in Calais – was considered so effective that she was invited to speak at the 2021 European Conference for Social Work. She has also been successful in applying for NIHR funding to undertake further research on how local communities welcome and support asylum seekers.

As Kirstie's manager aptly commented, Kirstie demonstrates a 'huge commitment' to the social work profession and her generosity with her time is 'inspiring'.

Supported by:



Joint Silver Award Winners
Ivor Wepke, Birmingham Youth Offending Service
Andrea White, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Gold Award Winner

Tara Mitchell Leeds and York NHS Partnership Foundation Trust

Tara Mitchell made a big impression on the perinatal mental health service as a student, described by her now manager as 'exuding confidence' rarely seen at that level of experience. When a role became available five years later, Tara was recruited to the team.

The first social worker in the service, Tara was responsible for safeguarding supervision. She was also instrumental in helping to set up innovative posts, such as a partner peer support role, as well as the recruitment of a further three social workers. Within two years Tara was promoted to clinical team manager of the community team and is valued by her staff as an 'incredibly supportive' leader who makes their wellbeing a 'top priority'. This was further reflected in her team's very low sickness rates during the pandemic.

One notable achievement is Tara's work in 2018 setting up a support group for older siblings, the first of its kind in perinatal mental health services. One of the children won the 'Radio Aire Young Carer of the Year Award' and Tara has also spoken about the impact of the group at a national level, encouraging other services to set up something similar.

Tara is widely regarded as a practitioner dedicated to perinatal mental health who always brings out the best in her team, and who is consistently changing lives for the better.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Lynn Counter, Cornwall Council

Gold Award Winner

Bhavna Maher Leicester City Council

Bhavna Maher is a social worker who excels at developing meaningful relationships with service users in even the most complex and challenging of circumstances.

Her unique role as a specialist Street Life social worker involves working as part of a multi-agency organisation, the Street Life Operational Group, to support those who adopt a street lifestyle. Bhavna's nomination described how she can most often be found on the streets of Leicester city centre, supporting the most vulnerable. Her approach has been direct and personal, taking social work support to her clients, instead of expecting them to navigate offices and appointments that they might otherwise feel excluded from.

As a result, Bhavna has successfully helped several people out of a street lifestyle and enabled them to maintain this. She has also been able to share her knowledge with other sectors within the multi-agency team, including housing, health and the police, and her participation has led to the group funding her role to work solely with this community.

Bhavna is credited by her colleagues as a practitioner with 'unwavering kindness and resilience', who will never give up on those she supports, even when they don't engage.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner Clare Fisk, Suffolk County Council

Gold Award Winner

Annmarie Nero Achieving for Children

Annmarie Nero only completed her ASYE last year, but she is already known across the senior leadership team at Achieving for Children for her tenacious work on complex cases, and for demonstrating the insight and analysis of a more experienced social worker.

Annmarie works in the Adolescent Safeguarding Team where she uses direct work and her ability to develop relationships with young people and deliver impactful interventions. In one complex child sexual abuse case, Annmarie's support for the young people at risk helped to uncover the level of organised crime present and led to significant disclosures to the police, which her colleagues say will likely keep children safe for years to come.

A practitioner whose own journey into social work started as a child, Annmarie is a champion of the use of direct work tools. Alongside her day-to-day role, she has delivered sessions to colleagues to share knowledge and skills, and is known for praising workers when they 'find the hook that supports a young person to make a change'.

The testimonials submitted in support of Annmarie's nomination highlighted the positive difference she has made to so many lives, with parents describing her as 'amazing', non-judgemental, and supporting them 'in every way possible'. She really stood out as a practitioner who goes above and beyond for children and their families.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner Nathan Head, Durham County Council

Gold Award Winner

Sarah Lowe

Sarah Lowe is an inspiring social worker, manager and leader who has spent more than four decades working tirelessly to improve the lives of adults and children with disabilities.

Sarah spent the early part of her career running a multidisciplinary residential complex for this client group, before going on to become a parenting assessor in public and private law proceedings. She spent 20 years supporting parents whose children had entered court proceedings, and despite now being semi-retired she continues to meet with judges and barristers to keep the courts up to speed on good practice procedures.

One remarkable achievement has been Sarah's development of Parent Assess, a specialist parenting assessment framework that supports parents with learning disabilities to understand the process of being assessed. Piloted in Luton in 2016, the framework was an 'overnight success' and is now used widely across the country.

Sarah later became head of the 0-25 disabilities service in Barnet, which she turned around from an 'inadequate' service to 'good' within four years. Those who worked alongside Sarah during this time said she had achieved 'great things' for Barnet's families.

Sarah has made a significant and long-lasting contribution to the profession. As her colleagues aptly commented, she is 'a very special person' whose commitment to social work has never wavered, making her a deserving winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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Silver Award Winner

Tony Wright, Forward Assist

Special Commendation

The Social Work Student Connect Team

The Social Work Student Connect Team, a group made up of only twelve people became a vital resource to many students studying for their social work qualifications during the pandemic.

During the beginning of the first UK lockdown, Siobhan Maclean noticed that many social work students on social media were talking about their placements being suspended. Wanting to help, she asked on Twitter whether any students would be interested in helping her to produce some social work webinars.

While the plan may have been to only create a few initial webinars to help students stay engaged with their studies, this soon grew into a much larger project. The webinars proved to be so popular with both students and qualified social workers alike, they are still continuing to be offered now.

At the time of nomination, the Social Work Student Connect Team had hosted 85 webinars, their most popular gaining over 22,000 views. Each member of the team undertakes various duties to make sure each webinar is a success, from hosting the virtual guests, providing support for those with lived experience from the topic, social media management and more. With their continued commitment and dedication to making sure that everyone has access to the learnings needed to further their social work skills and knowledge, it's no surprise that the team has been asked to speak at international events about their work.

While the lockdowns may now be over, the positive effects that the Social Work Student Connect team have had on those they support will continue.

Overall Joint Winner

Kirstie Baughan Central Bedfordshire Council

Kirstie Baughan has been inspired to help others since a young age. She is also the Gold Winner of the Social Justice Advocate of the Year Award.

A lover of 'Tracy Beaker' as a child – the Jacqueline Wilson story of a ten-year-old girl living in a children's residential home nicknamed the 'Dumping Ground', Kirstie went on to support children facing difficult times in her role as a young leader at Guides and Brownies, and volunteered at a charity for young people with disabilities.

Since completing her social work training, Kirstie has immersed herself in promoting the rights of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Outside of her day job as audit manager at Central Bedfordshire Council, she volunteers for Refugees at Home and as the regional lead for Care4Calais. She is also currently undertaking a Doctorate, with her research focused on how local communities welcome and support asylum seekers.

Kirstie is widely regarded by those she works with as a social worker whose values 'drive her practice' and who demonstrates compassion in all that she does.

The judges were impressed by how Kirstie has truly committed to improving the lives of asylum seeking children and young people, taking the time to 'walk in their shoes' and develop her understanding of this area of practice.

Supported by:



Overall Joint Winner

The Team around Kasibba* Camden Integrated Learning Disability Service

The multidisciplinary team around Kasibba* is also the Gold Winner, Team of the Year, Adult Services. The team stood out to the judges for their 'dogged persistence' to change someone's life, even when, at times, everything was against them.

The Camden team have spent six years working to achieve Kasibba's release from a mental health hospital, where she has been inappropriately detained all her adult life. A Black African woman with Autism, Kasibba came into care at a time when there was little understanding of the condition and her behaviours were met with racism. In August this year, a judge was expected to agree that she could finally move to her own home.

The team's achievements are perhaps best summarised by Jess McGregor, Camden's director of adult social care and integrated commissioning, who said: 'Their refusal to accept the status quo, to call out the racism that has built up around Kasibba and their ability to articulate and embed a narrative of hope and achievement to replace that of danger and savagery is, in my experience, beyond compare.'

The team around Kasibba never gave up and together they have fought long and hard for justice and the right outcome for their service user.

*Not their real name.

Supported by:



From Ana Popovici, Director of Children’s Services at the London Borough of Wandsworth, and Trustee, Social Work Awards

“Social work is exhilarating, it’s transformational, it’s compassionate, it’s relational and it’s intense emotional labour. It’s about nurturing relationships with a continuous commitment to equality and inclusion. Social workers change lives and the ripple effect has a profound impact on families, communities and society as a whole.

All applications this year have shown such a depth of commitment to the profession and to making people’s lives better which are truly noteworthy.

What our winners have reminded us of through their work is the life changing power of social workers through actions large and small. They have demonstrated incredible empathy and been champions for the most vulnerable children and adults, helping those they work with to achieve their dreams, their goals, to be safe, to achieve independence.

Every social worker should be proud of their commitment to our vocation, for their unrelenting selflessness and for the impact they have on individuals and beyond.”

Peter Hay CBE, Chair of Trustees, Social Work Awards

“Our winners show that social work requires attention to learning, evidence and theory combined with real heart. Their work is underpinned by a passionate, unwavering commitment to human rights and the dignity of every human being. Sometimes putting all of this into practice means overcoming real barriers, requiring tenacity over time. Our winners have shown skilled and dedicated social work that changes lives by applying their skills, values and determination; they are truly worthy winners of this recognition.”

Brian Mitchell, Social Work Lecturer at the University of Bradford and Trustee, Social Work Awards

“Both entries are examples of outstanding social work practice. It is beautiful to see two quite separate and contrasting entries receive the accolade of overall winner. This is evidence of a profession that is alive with creative and radically minded people that are instinctive and remain true to the ideas and philosophy of rights-based practice. Congratulations to both award winners.”



List of finalists 2022

Student Social Worker of the Year 2022

Supported by Torbay Council

Solomon Tugbiyele	Anglia Ruskin University
Momoh Etunu Suleman	University of Bradford
Denford Duri	University of Hull
Natasha Round	The Open University / Devon County Council
Stephanie Burns	University of Sunderland
Shannon Briddon	Nottingham Trent University

University of the Year 2022

Supported by Coventry City Council

University of Chester
Oxford Brookes University
Solent University, Southampton

Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year 2022

Supported by Devon County Council

Helen Southgate	Suffolk County Council
Anna Boddy	City of York Council
Sehrish Zeb	Essex County Council
Cheryl Dixon	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Naomi Thompson	Worcestershire County Council
Tracy Bell	Lancashire County Council

Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year 2022

Supported by Children's Social Work Matters (CSWM)

Amy White	Essex County Council
Mi-Gyung Kim	Achieving for Children
Skerntian Keri	Wiltshire Council
Maisie Pearce-Connor	London Borough of Hounslow
Joe Harrison	Essex County Council
Ivanna Finn	Richmond and Wandsworth Councils
Dawn Bedwell	Essex County Council

Practice Educator of the Year 2022

Supported by BASW

Carolyn Smith	Wakefield Council
Roz Ryder	Shropshire Council
Sue Powell	Essex County Council
Jackie Flynn	Essex County Council
Minette Moorhouse	Northumberland County Council
Laura Webb	Bedford Borough Council

Team of the Year, Adult Services 2022 (including MDTs)

Supported by UNISON

The Team around Kasibba*
Camden Integrated Learning Disability Service
Enhanced Support Team
Derbyshire County Council
Day Unit Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)
Mary Stevens Hospice
Social Work Student Connect
Central Adult Safeguarding Team
Suffolk County Council
Independent Futures Team
Hampshire County Council

Team of the Year, Children's Services 2022 (including MDTs)

Supported by Lambeth London Borough Council

Families First Fostering
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Make a Change Team (MAC), Suffolk County Council
Reunification Team, Coventry City Council
Social Work Student Connect
Kingston and Richmond Leaving Care / UASC Team
Achieving for Children

Supportive Social Work Employer Award 2022

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Children's Services, Torbay Council

Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services 2022

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Lucy Hunt	Devon County Council
Tom Woodd	Devon County Council and Devon Partnership NHS Trust
Ian Hall	Northumberland County Council
Karen Aspinall	Essex County Council
Louise White	Somerset County Council
Janet Hardy	Somerset County Council

Team Leader of the Year, Children's Services 2022

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Ayshea Dalby	Leicestershire County Council
Helen Harding	London Borough of Havering
Heather Johns	Manchester City Council
Yvette Lima	Achieving for Children
Michelle Morris	Aspris Fostering Services

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Social Work team, Mary Stevens Hospice
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Lauren Main	Gloucestershire County Council

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Ivor Wepke	Birmingham Youth Offending Service
Andrea White	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Millie Kerr	Brighton and Hove City Council
Social Work Student Connect	

Mental Health Social Worker of the Year 2022

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Sarah Bright	Devon County Council and Devon Partnership NHS Trust
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Charlotte McFarthing	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

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Deborah Solomon	Derbyshire County Council

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Overall Social Worker of the Year

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The Overall Social Worker of the Year has been chosen by The Board of Trustees from a shortlist of the category winners

*Kasibba is not their real name

Thank you to our judging panel

Alexandra Capitani

Children's Social Worker
of the Year 2021

Andrew Reece

Head of Integrated Learning Disability
Services and interim Head of Mental
Health Social Work Adult Social Care,
Camden Council

Asmaat Khan

ASYE Social Worker,
Essex County Council

Bethany Erickson Rodrigues

Independent Senior Social Worker

Bev Knowles

Advanced Practice Educator,
Cornwall Council

Bev Williams MBE

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of the Year Awards

D. Aleski Brandy-Williams

Senior Social Worker and Sessional
EDT Social Worker, London Councils

Deb Solomon

Social Worker and Temporary Practice
Development Lead, Derbyshire
County Council

Diana Harris

Chair, BASW Coventry & Warwickshire
Branch

Dinah

CLICK (Children Living in Care Kouncil),
Wandsworth Council

Dr Mark Brookes MBE

Advocacy Lead, Dimensions

Elizabeth Njenga

Chair, BASW Buckinghamshire Branch

Ella Waughman

Social Worker, Cambridgeshire
County Council

Fran Leddra

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

Gergo

Family Justice Young People's
Board, Cafcass

Jak Savage

Independent Employer and
Social Care Consultant

Jason Brandon

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

Joseph Robb

Service Manager Looked After Children
Resources, Darlington Borough Council

Juliette Cammaerts

Director of Policy Planning and Delivery,
Office of the Children's Commissioner
for England

Karen Mistry

Social Work Practice Development Lead,
Nottinghamshire County Council

Kudakwashe Kurashwa

Team Leader of the Year 2021

Laura

Family Justice Young People's
Board, Cafcass

Lisa

Family Justice Young People's
Board, Cafcass

Maris Stratulis

National Director, BASW England

Melanie Noel

Adult Social Worker of the Year 2021

Nikki Rutter

Teaching Fellow, Durham University

Noel Beckett

Interim Safeguarding, QA Practice
Improvement and Performance Strategic
Lead, Oxfordshire County Council

Patriche Bentick

Senior Practitioner, Camden Council

Sabira Ladha

Acting Team Manager,
Essex County Council

Sarah Harrison

Co chair, BASW Student
and NQSW Group

Tara Morgan

Independent Social Work Practitioner

Vava Tampa

Chair, BASW England

Vicci Livingstone-Thompson

CEO, Inclusion Gloucestershire

Vivian Okeze-Tirado

Social Justice Advocate Award 2021
winner and Overall Social Worker of the
Year 2021

Yvonne Frimpong

Social Worker



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Coventry City Council
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SCAN ME



“ After feeling stressed and burnt out in my previous role, I joined Suffolk County Council over a year ago and I love working here! The support I get from my manager and my team lets me have as much of a work-life balance as social work will allow.

I have found the local authority to be flexible and sympathetic to the needs of me, my family and also the families we work with.

I feel like I enjoy my job more than I ever have and I've been doing social work for around seven years.

– Kayleigh Rayson, Social Worker –



If you are looking to grow professionally and further your career in social work, Suffolk can offer you a supportive practice where you can make a real difference to people's lives.

Working in Suffolk provides the opportunity to protect, empower and change the lives of those in our community, and make a real difference to the people in the county.

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To find out more about these roles, why Suffolk is the ideal choice for starting or developing a career in social care, and the excellent benefits of working for Suffolk County Council please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/social-work-suffolk



Congratulations to all finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2022

*We're delighted to sponsor one of this year's new
categories 'Digital Transformation in Social Work'*



Huge congratulations
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