Best of health staff awards

Local unsung heroes of the health service have been recognised for their contribution to patient care at Hywel Dda NHS Trust’s Beast of Health Staff Awards.

The ceremony was held at West Wales General Hospital on Tuesday and was attended by more than 70 staff from across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

Winners and nominees came from a range of disciplines - from doctors and nurses to IT specialists and librarians - representing the huge field of careers available in the NHS and the contribution they all make to delivering patient care and saving lives.

The awards scheme is organised by the Trust in order to recognise and reward staff who go the extra mile in their day-to-day work. Nominations were invited from staff, patients, carers, relatives, GPs, voluntary groups and the general public.

Chief Executive Martin Turner said: “We are extremely grateful and proud of the work carried out by our staff – they really are our greatest asset. This event provides us with an opportunity to thank and recognise some of the exemplarily work that is carried out by individuals and teams and to take stock of the positive impact this has on our patients’ lives.”

Chairman Chris Martin added: “It was a really humbling experience to read the award entries, which were of an extremely high standard. Choosing the winners was a very rewarding but difficult task.”

The Chief Executive’s Award for Outstanding Service Innovation or Excellence in Improving Patient Care or Experience was awarded to the Trust’s Intra-Vitreal Lucentis Service, which treats Wet Age Related Macula Degeneration.

AMD is the biggest cause of sight loss in the UK, affecting the older populations, and is the most common cause of blindness and partial sight in England and Wales. Lucentis is a relatively new drug, given by intra-vitreal injection, and not routinely available for use in the NHS. A team of clinicians and managers from the Trust and Local Health Board developed a robust business case for the development of these services for patients in Hywel Dda NHS Trust.
The service began in June 2008 at Amman Valley Hospital and a clinic has since opened in Aberystwyth to treat patients specifically for Ceredigion, South Gwynedd and Powys and to reduce patient travelling times. The team are now progressing plans for a treatment centre in Pembrokeshire.

Feedback from patients has been excellent, as the service is giving patients hope and the opportunity to have therapy which can improve vision in up to a third of cases.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon Mr Manoj Kulshrestha, who accepted the award on behalf of the team, said: “It is satisfying to see patients who thought they were initially going blind to be reading again, or stabilising their vision. It helps them maintain their independence and prevents the risk of other healthcare problems such as falls.”

Highly commended in this category went to the Therapy Assistant Practitioner project at Withybush Hospital’s Adult Clinical Decision Unit, and Commended to Learning Disabilities Community Nurse for Llanelli Tracey Lloyd.

Other winners and runners up were:

- **Healthcare Worker of Year**
  - **Commended:** Dr Anita Huws, Breast Physician, Breast Care Unit, Prince Philip Hospital
  - **Highly Commended:** Dr Elizabeth Richardson, Consultant Psychiatrist, Canolfan Bro Cerwyn, Haverfordwest
  - **Winner:** Ann Thomas, Healthcare Assistant, Acute Stroke Unit Ward 11, Withybush General Hospital

- **Clinical Leader/Mentor of the Year**
  - **Highly Commended:** Sister Annette Williams, Specialist Respiratory Nurse, Department of Respiratory Medicine, West Wales General Hospital
  - **Winner:** Mr Withanage, Acting Locum Consultant Withybush General Hospital

- **Manager of the Year**
  - **Winner:** Elaine Jones, Team Leader, Haven Way Psychiatric Day Hospital, Fort Road, Pembroke Dock

- **Learner of the Year**
  - **Highly Commended:** Gillian Jackson, Healthcare Support Worker, Cleddau Ward, West Wales General Hospital
  - **Highly Commended:** Vanessa Lewis, Healthcare Support Worker, Ward 4, Prince Philip Hospital

- **Unsung Hero (Non-Clinical)**
  - **Commended:** Malcolm Judge, Catering Assistant, Bronglais General Hospital
Commended: Gill Lee-Munson, Health Visitor, Winch Lane Surgery, Haverfordwest
Highly Commended: Patricia Chapman, Library Services Manager, Bronglais General Hospital
Winner: Neil Gillies, Learning and Development Manager (Informatics), Withybush General Hospital

• Team of the Year
  Highly Commended: Community Mental Health Team, Brynmair Clinic, Llanelli
  Highly Commended: Cleddau River Day Unit, South Pembrokeshire Hospital, Health and Social Care Resource Centre
  Winner: Integrated Care Management Team, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Hafan Derwen, Carmarthen

• Excellence in Partnership-Working
  Commended: Shared Meal Times Joint Project Learning Disabilities and Acute Mental Health In-Patient, Cwm Seren Ward, Carmarthen
  Commended: Prevention of Management of Violence and Aggression Team, Hafan Derwen, Carmarthen
  Highly Commended: Hassen Joomraty, General Manager, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Hafan Derwen, Carmarthen
  Winner: Acute Response Team, Mynydd Mawr Hospital, Tumble, Llanelli

• Public or Staff Engagement and Involvement
  Commended: Duad Ward (learning disability inpatient ward), Hafan Derwen, Carmarthen
  Winner: Sophia Wadman, Sexual and Emotional Health Advisor, Ceredigion

• Patient Safety Award, supported by the 1000 Lives Campaign
  Winner: Reducing Surgical Complications, Emergency and Critical Patient Flow Directorate, Withybush General Hospital

The Best of Health Staff Awards will now become an annual event within the new Hywel Dda Local Health Board.

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Notes to editors:

• Full descriptions of each award entry are available on request
• Photographs taken at the award ceremony are also available on request, or can be arranged

For more information, or to receive this press release in Welsh, please contact:

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