



## INNOVATION & BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

### CHA INNOVATION AND BEST PRACTICE AWARDS 2026 - CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Community Hospitals Association is delighted to open its annual Innovation and Best Practice Programme for 2026.

We welcome submissions from anyone working in their local community hospital which includes staff of all grades, departments and services. We also welcome submissions from Leagues of Friends and volunteers who support their local hospital.

We warmly encourage everyone to share their innovative work and best practices and demonstrate how they have made a difference.

### AWARD CATEGORIES

*Please choose the category or categories that you feel is most appropriate for your submission.*

#### 1. Green Initiative

Recognising sustainable practices and environmental improvements.

#### 2. Quality Improvement in Community Hospitals

Demonstrating improvements in quality in order to make health and care safe, effective, patient-centred, timely, efficient and equitable. Showcasing projects that enhance patient care and improve service experiences and outcomes.

#### 3. Integration and Continuity of Care

Demonstrating effective collaboration and partnership working across staff and services in order to provide seamless patient experiences. Providing examples of integration that improve the experience of patients and carers.

#### 4. Person-Centred Care

“No Decision About Me Without Me.” Initiatives that actively involve patients and people with a lived or living experience in decisions about health and care. Demonstrating health coproduction is a way of working where patients, carers, and health staff act as equal partners to design, plan, and improve care.

#### 5. Innovative Technology in Community Hospitals

Highlighting the use of technology to improve care, accessibility, efficiency and effectiveness.

#### 6. President's Award

This is a special award chosen from all submissions.

### SUBMISSION FORMATS

*To make participation accessible and engaging, we welcome submissions in a variety of formats. Please choose one that best showcases your work:*

#### ◆ Written Submission

Please submit a written account of up to 500 words, and do feel free to include supporting photos or images.

#### ◆ PowerPoint Presentation

We would like up to 6 slides including a title slide. Ideally a maximum of 500 words and do feel free to add photos or images.

#### ◆ Poster

Please supply a poster as a PDF/JPEG which can be printed as A3 size. Up to 500 words including references. This may be an infographic.

#### ◆ Video

We welcome a video of your submission of up to 3 minutes which can be submitted as a link such as YouTube.

## CRITERIA

### 1. Rationale

Why was the change needed? Explain what prompted your initiative and the difference it has made.

### 2. Benefit to Patients and Staff

How have patients or staff benefited? Share specific ways your project has improved care, experiences, or working practices. Has the change been evaluated?

### 3. Benefits to the Organisation

What has been the wider impact? Highlight any benefits for your organisation or the healthcare system, such as better efficiency, cost savings or stronger partnerships. Has the change been evaluated?

### 4. Learning

What have you learned? Tell us about key insights, challenges overcome and lessons that could help others.

### 5. Transferability

Could others use this idea? Show how your initiative could be adapted in other community hospitals.

### 6. Quality of Submission

Is your submission clear and engaging? Present your information in a well-structured and visually clear way. Using photos, data or testimonials can help bring your story to life.

## HOW TO ENTER

To submit your entry, follow these steps:

- ◆ Complete the [Application Form here](#) Please make sure you press 'submit'. You will receive an automated response confirming your entry.
- ◆ Once you have submitted the application form, please **email** your project to [info@communityhospitals.net](mailto:info@communityhospitals.net) Thank you.
- ◆ Ensure that all entries are received by **Monday 5th October**. Unfortunately, late submissions cannot be accepted.

## TIMETABLE

**Deadline for Submissions:** Monday 5th October 2026

**Presentations:** w/c 9th November 2026 (Virtual presentations via Zoom)

*If your submission is shortlisted, you will need to be available and willing to present a 10-minute verbal presentation via MS Teams, so please ensure you can meet this entry requirement before applying.*

**Announcements:** 11th January 2027

## JUDGING PANEL

We are pleased to announce the 2026 IB&P award panel as follows: Dr Helen Tucker MBE, Fellow of the CHA and Awards Lead; Maria Ines de Sousa de Abreu, Advanced Clinical Practitioner; David Farnsworth, Deputy Director of Community Services and Clare Liggins, Advanced Clinical Practitioner.

## AWARDS, RECOGNITION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINNERS

Winners will be invited to present their work as part of the CHA Special Interest Group programme. These monthly webinars celebrate innovation & best practice in community hospitals and hubs, and are an excellent opportunity for sharing learning across the network. All winning entries will be shared on our website and social media platforms, and we invite winners to engage with our social media campaign after the awards to help inspire others across the community.

Please contact [info@communityhospitals.net](mailto:info@communityhospitals.net) if you have any questions about any of this information.