



PARTNERS
in CARE

Partners in Care

Excellence in Care

Awards 2026

Information Pack



Partners in Care Excellence in Care Awards 2026

Introduction

Partners in Care is delighted to once again be holding its annual Care Awards as part of our Annual Conference and AGM which will be held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 from 9am-4pm at Shrewsbury Football Club, to celebrate the great care that is provided by its members every day.

Entries are only open to Partners in Care members. Entrants are not able to nominate themselves but may be nominated by colleagues, managers, employers or clients (care recipients/service users/residents, etc).

Nominators are asked to submit a nomination form of no more than 250 words and the nomination must demonstrate at least one of the nomination criteria for the relevant category – see below for more information on the Award categories and criteria.

Nominations need to be submitted by completing the official Partners in Care Excellence in Care Awards 2026 Nomination Form via Microsoft Forms (link below) by 5.00pm on Friday 07 August 2026. Nominations received after this date/time will not be considered.

[Partners in Care - Excellence in Care Awards 2026 Nomination Form – Fill in form](#)

Award nominations will be judged by a panel of independent experts. The panel will select the finalists and category winners in each category; the judges' decisions will be final, and finalists will be publicised in advance of the Annual Conference and AGM and the category winners will be announced at the event.

All category winners will receive an engraved glass trophy and framed certificate.

Care Awards Categories are listed below and criteria on the following pages. This year we have added new categories which are highlighted in blue below and some criteria has been updated for other categories.

Individual Awards

Care/Support Worker of the Year
Registered Manager of the Year
Activity Co-ordinator of the Year
Chef / Catering Team Member of the Year
Domestic Team Member of the Year
Office-based Team Member of the Year
Learner of the Year
[Newcomer Award](#)
[Dementia Carer of the Year](#)
[Palliative / End of Life Carer of the Year](#)
[Registered Nurse of the Year](#)
[Volunteer of the Year](#)
[Sponsored International Worker of the Year](#)
[Outstanding Contribution](#)

Organisational Awards

Care Employer of the Year (People & Culture Award)
Care Provider of the Year (Excellence in Care Award)
[Dignity in Care Organisational Award](#)
Environmentally Sustainable Care Provider of the Year
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion of the Year
[Digital, Data and Technology Award](#)

Individual Award Categories

Carer/Support Worker of the Year

This award recognises the vital role of care & support workers who consistently provide high-quality care. It celebrates individuals who go above and beyond in their day-to-day work, showing compassion, patience and professionalism. They take time to understand the people they support, build strong relationships, and make a real difference to people's lives. A strong nominee will also show a willingness to learn, support colleagues and continually improve their practice.

What we're looking for:

- Giving excellent care to clients, with clear examples of kindness, compassion and high standards in daily work
- Treating each person as an individual, recognising their preferences, needs and life history
- Helping people stay independent, while always respecting privacy, dignity and choice
- Involving clients and their families, listening to their views and including them in decisions about care
- Working well in a team and using initiative, supporting colleagues and stepping up when needed

Registered Manager of the Year

This award recognises a Registered Manager who shows strong leadership and delivers a high-quality, well-run service. It celebrates those who create a positive culture, inspire their teams, and ensure clients receive safe, effective and person-centred care. The nominations will demonstrate clear vision, adaptability and a strong commitment to supporting both staff and clients in a changing care environment.

What we're looking for:

- A well-led service, with clear direction, good organisation and a positive culture
- Person-centred care, ensuring support is tailored to each individual and regularly reviewed
- Understanding equality, diversity and inclusion, and making this part of everyday practice
- Positive feedback from clients and families, showing trust and satisfaction with the service
- Supporting staff, including training, wellbeing and creating a safe culture where people can speak up

Activity Co-ordinator of the Year

This award celebrates an Activity Co-ordinator who creates engaging, meaningful and enjoyable experiences that improve wellbeing. It recognises creativity, empathy and the ability to design activities that reflect people's interests and abilities. A strong nominee will show how their work helps reduce isolation, builds confidence, supports physical activity and brings people together in a positive and inclusive way.

What we're looking for:

- Understanding individual needs, creating activities that suit different interests and abilities
- Involving clients and families, asking for ideas and shaping activities around what people enjoy
- Encouraging participation, helping people feel motivated, confident and included
- Using good training and guidance, bringing in ideas from trusted sources and best practice
- Making activities inclusive, ensuring everyone can take part regardless of ability or need

Chef / Catering Team Member of the Year

This award recognises someone who makes a real difference through food and drink, providing meals that support health, wellbeing and enjoyment. It celebrates individuals who understand the importance of nutrition, hydration and choice, while also creating a positive dining experience. The strongest nominees will show creativity, responsiveness to feedback and pride in delivering high-quality meals.

What we're looking for:

- Providing an excellent food service, with meals that are nutritious, enjoyable and well presented
- Treating each person as an individual, offering choice and meeting cultural and dietary needs
- Using local and fresh ingredients, where possible to support quality and sustainability
- Reducing food waste, managing resources carefully and responsibly
- Taking pride in their work, shown through attention to detail and positive feedback

Domestic Team Member of the Year

This award celebrates a team member who plays a key role in creating a clean, safe and comfortable environment. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but it is essential to people's wellbeing and dignity. A strong nominee will show care, attention to detail and a positive approach, helping to make the environment feel welcoming and homely.

What we're looking for:

- Providing an excellent service, creating a clean, safe and welcoming environment
- Treating each person as an individual, with kindness and understanding in daily interactions
- Showing dignity and respect, being thoughtful and considerate at all times
- Using initiative, noticing what needs to be done and taking action
- Taking pride in their work, maintaining high standards and a positive attitude

Office-Based Team Member of the Year

This award recognises the important role office staff play in supporting the smooth running of care services. It celebrates individuals who provide reliable, professional support to clients, families and colleagues, often as the first point of contact. A strong nominee will show excellent communication, organisation and a commitment to helping others.

What we're looking for:

- Providing excellent service, supporting clients, families and staff in a helpful and professional way
- Treating people as individuals, understanding their needs and responding appropriately
- Showing respect and dignity, in all communication and actions
- Using initiative, solving problems and improving processes where possible
- Taking pride in their work, being organised, accurate and reliable

Learner of the Year

This award celebrates someone who has shown a strong commitment to personal and professional development. It recognises individuals who take opportunities to learn, build their skills and apply new knowledge in their role. The strongest nominees will show how their learning has made a real difference to their confidence, performance and the quality of care they provide.

What we're looking for:

- Commitment to learning, showing motivation to improve and develop
- Taking part in training and development, both formal and informal learning

- Applying learning in their role, using new skills and knowledge in day-to-day work
- Making a positive difference, improving outcomes for clients, colleagues or the service
- Showing personal growth, including increased confidence, skills or responsibility

Newcomer Award

This award celebrates someone who is new to the care sector and has already made a positive impact. It recognises individuals who have quickly developed their skills, shown confidence in their role and demonstrated a strong commitment to providing high-quality care. A strong nominee will stand out for their enthusiasm, willingness to learn and ability to build positive relationships with clients and colleagues.

What we're looking for:

- A strong start in their role, showing confidence, reliability and a positive attitude
- Commitment to learning, including completing training and developing new skills
- Providing good quality care, with examples of kindness, respect and professionalism
- Building positive relationships, with clients, families and colleagues
- Showing potential, demonstrating passion for care and a desire to grow

Dementia Carer of the Year

This award recognises a care worker who provides outstanding support to people living with dementia. It celebrates individuals who show patience, understanding and skill in delivering person-centred care that improves quality of life. A strong nominee will demonstrate compassion and the ability to respond to changing needs in a sensitive and thoughtful way.

What we're looking for:

- Understanding dementia care, using approaches that support communication, comfort and wellbeing
- Providing person-centred support, recognising each person's history, routines and preferences
- Showing patience and compassion, especially in challenging situations
- Supporting independence and dignity, helping people live well with dementia
- Making a positive difference, with examples of improved wellbeing or reduced distress

Palliative / End of Life Carer of the Year

This award recognises a care worker who provides exceptional care and support at the end of life. It celebrates those who deliver compassionate, sensitive and respectful care, supporting both individuals and their families during a very difficult time. A strong nominee will show empathy, professionalism and a deep understanding of people's wishes and needs.

What we're looking for:

- Providing compassionate care, ensuring comfort, dignity and respect at all times
- Supporting individuals and families, offering reassurance, communication and emotional support
- Respecting wishes and preferences, including cultural, spiritual and personal choices
- Working with others, including health professionals, to provide coordinated care
- Making a lasting difference, helping people feel supported, safe and cared for at the end of life

Registered Nurse of the Year

This award recognises a Registered Nurse who delivers high-quality clinical care alongside compassion and professionalism. It celebrates those who combine clinical expertise with a person-centred approach, ensuring safe, effective and respectful care. A strong nominee will show leadership, sound judgement and a commitment to continuous improvement.

What we're looking for:

- Delivering high-quality clinical care, ensuring safety and good outcomes for clients
- Providing person-centred care, treating each individual with dignity and respect
- Using professional judgement and skills, responding effectively to changing needs
- Supporting and guiding others, including mentoring staff and working as part of a team
- Commitment to learning and improvement, keeping knowledge and practice up to date

Volunteer of the Year

This award celebrates an individual who gives their time, energy and kindness to make a positive difference in adult social care. It may recognise a person receiving care and support who contributes to the service, supports staff or encourages others, or someone who volunteers their time to help individuals, teams or services. A strong nominee will show commitment, compassion and a willingness to go above and beyond, helping people feel included, valued and connected.

What we're looking for:

- Giving time and support generously, showing commitment, reliability and a positive attitude
- Making a meaningful difference to individuals, helping people feel included, confident or connected
- Showing kindness, compassion and respect in all interactions with clients, families and staff
- Using initiative, bringing ideas, enthusiasm or practical help that improves the service
- Working well with others, supporting the wider team and reflecting the values of care

Sponsored International Worker of the Year

This award recognises an international worker who has made a valuable contribution to care services. It celebrates individuals who have adapted to working in the UK, brought new perspectives and enriched the workplace through their skills, experience and culture. A strong nominee will show resilience, professionalism and a positive impact on clients and colleagues.

What we're looking for:

- Making a positive contribution, delivering high-quality care and support
- Adapting to a new role and environment, showing resilience and commitment
- Bringing diversity and new perspectives, enriching the team and workplace culture
- Building strong relationships, with clients, families and colleagues
- Showing dedication and professionalism, taking pride in their work and role

Outstanding Contribution Award

This award recognises an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to care. It celebrates those who go above and beyond their role, showing leadership, dedication and a strong commitment to improving services. This may reflect long-term service or a major impact within a shorter time.

What we're looking for:

- Making a significant contribution, beyond normal expectations of their role
- Showing leadership and influence, inspiring others and driving positive change
- Improving services or practice, with clear examples of impact

- Demonstrating commitment and dedication, over time or through key achievements
- Leaving a lasting legacy, with benefits for clients, staff or the organisation
- Dedicated to co-producing with individuals accessing care and support.

Organisation Awards

Care Employer of the Year (People & Culture Award)

This award recognises an organisation that is an exceptional employer in adult social care. It focuses entirely on the experience of staff, from recruitment and onboarding through to development, wellbeing and retention.

It celebrates organisations that create a workplace where people feel valued, listened to and proud to work. Strong nominees will demonstrate how they support their workforce, build a positive culture and enable staff to grow and succeed.

This award is about staff experience and workplace culture, not care outcomes.

What we're looking for:

- An outstanding staff experience, where people feel valued, respected and supported in their roles
- A strong workplace culture, with clear evidence of listening to staff and acting on feedback
- Effective recruitment and retention, attracting the right people and supporting them to stay
- Investment in staff development and wellbeing, including training, career pathways and support
- Empowered and engaged staff, who feel confident, motivated and able to contribute

Care Provider of the Year (Excellence in Care Award)

This is the highest award and recognises the overall best care provider across the region. It celebrates organisations that deliver consistently high-quality care, excellent outcomes and sector-leading practice.

This award assesses the full performance of the organisation, including safety, effectiveness, leadership, innovation and measurable impact on people's lives. Strong nominees will demonstrate sustained excellence, continuous improvement and the ability to influence standards beyond their own service.

It is not about excelling in one area, but about achieving consistent, high-level performance across all aspects of care delivery.

Focus: Overall performance, outcomes, innovation and sector leadership

What we're looking for:

- Strong performance across all areas, including Good or Outstanding CQC ratings across the key lines of enquiry, where applicable. Services that are exempt from CQC ratings should provide alternative evidence of quality, safety and effectiveness.
- Exceptional care outcomes, with clear evidence of improved quality of life for people receiving care
- High-quality person-centred care, promoting dignity, independence and choice
- Dedicated to co-producing with individuals accessing care and support.
- Innovation and continuous improvement, developing new approaches to enhance care
- Strong leadership and governance, ensuring safe, effective and well-led services
- Wider impact and influence, working in partnership and raising standards across the sector

Dignity in Care Organisation of the Year

This award recognises a care provider that consistently embeds dignity, respect and compassion into everyday care practice. It celebrates organisations where values are clearly seen in how people are treated on a daily basis.

The focus is on the lived experience of care, ensuring every individual feels valued, listened to and respected, and is supported to maintain independence, choice and control. Strong nominees will demonstrate how dignity is actively promoted through culture, leadership and frontline behaviours. This award is about how care is experienced, co-produced, not just how it performs.

Focus: Culture, behaviours and lived experience of care

What we're looking for:

- Embedding dignity and respect, ensuring compassionate, person-centred care in everyday practice
- Positive lived experiences, with feedback showing people feel valued, safe and respected
- Supporting independence and choice, enabling people to have control over their lives
- Protecting privacy and dignity, particularly in personal or sensitive situations
- A values-driven culture, where kindness and respect are consistently demonstrated by staff
- Listening and responding, using feedback from clients and families to improve experiences
- Promoting and safeguarding dignity, with clear expectations and action taken where standards fall short
- Demonstrable impact, with examples of improved wellbeing, confidence or quality of life

Environmentally Sustainable Care Provider of the Year

This award recognises a care provider that takes meaningful and practical steps to protect the environment. It celebrates organisations that think about their long-term impact and build sustainability into everyday practice. Strong nominees will show both action already taken and a clear commitment to improving in the future.

What we're looking for:

- Taking action to protect the environment, such as reducing energy, waste or water use
- Clear plans for the future, including steps towards Net Zero
- Understanding the wider impact, including how the organisation affects people and the environment
- Encouraging staff involvement, building a culture of sustainability across the service

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion of the Year

This award recognises a provider that places equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of its culture. It celebrates organisations that not only support difference, but actively value and celebrate it, creating an environment where everyone feels safe, respected and able to be themselves. Strong nominees will show how this is lived every day by both staff and clients.

What we're looking for:

- Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion, making it part of everyday practice and decision-making
- Actively celebrating diversity, including culture, religion, disability and LGBTQ+ identities
- Listening to staff and clients, and using feedback to shape and improve the service
- Making a real difference, with clear examples of people feeling respected, valued and included

Digital, Data and Technology Award

This award recognises an organisation that is using digital tools, data or technology to improve adult social care. This could include introducing or improving digital care planning systems, using information to deliver better care, or helping staff and clients feel more confident using technology. It celebrates those who use technology in a practical and meaningful way, making care safer, improving communication, saving time, or helping people stay independent. Strong nominees will also show how they support others to use digital systems well and keep information safe.

What we're looking for:

- Using digital systems to improve care, such as implementing or improving digital care planning, making information more accurate, up to date and easy to access
- Making work easier and more efficient, helping staff save time, communicate better and focus more on care
- Supporting clients to use technology, helping them stay connected, informed and more independent (for example using phones, apps or online services)
- Introducing new ideas and improvements, using technology in a safe, practical and sensible way
- Keeping information safe, following good practice and helping others understand how to use systems correctly
- Supporting staff and teams, building confidence and skills in using digital tools and systems
- Making a real difference, with clear examples of improved care, better outcomes or positive feedback from staff and clients