

### Shining a light on our heroic staff

#### A message from Oonagh Fitzgerald, Director of Human Resources

This Friday, 30 June, sees the return of our [Staff Excellence Awards](#).

Now in its eighth year, the event will see around 400 staff from across the Trust celebrate the amazing achievements of the past 12 months with a special ceremony.



I am honoured to have been part of the judging panel and this year, like every year, the standard of nominations has been incredibly high and I have been humbled by the stories I've read.

Judging as always was incredibly difficult, as there is so much to be proud of.

All too often we are so busy with our daily work that we forget about the amazing things that happen every single day across the NHS.

The terrible events in London and Manchester recently have shown the world how brilliant our NHS is in the face of such monumental challenges and I for one am immensely proud to play a very small part in it.

BBC2's Hospital programme, which showed how St Mary's in London dealt with the aftermath of the Westminster Bridge attack in March, was both

powerful and moving.

What struck me most was how quickly staff got into action and just did what they would do on any other day, despite very difficult circumstances.

I know that many of you will think in the same way as these wonderful colleagues and say "it's all part of the job". But for me, it just makes it all the more important that we take a step back, look at how amazing you all are and most importantly say thank you.

### **Celebrating you**

The **Staff Excellence Awards** is a fantastic way to acknowledge your achievements, whether it's introducing new and innovative ways of working, finding ways to reach our 500 lives goal, showing how well you work as a team or as a leader, or how you've made a difference behind the scenes, everything is celebrated here.

One award which never fails to pull at the heartstrings is the Patients' Choice Award, where all the nominations come directly from the patients you treat.

Reading comments like "She was our rock and we couldn't have got through it if it wasn't for her", "They are the most amazing nurses I have ever met" and "The quality of care they provide is absolutely excellent" simply gives me goosebumps.

This has to be one of the most powerful ways a patient can say thank you and I'm sure we'll need a mascara warning when the nominations are read out on Friday.

Another highlight for me is the STAR of the Year award which showcases all our **STARs of the Month** from the past year.

These people have demonstrated our values of **Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect** in everything they do and are stars in every sense of the word.

It is always a pleasure for me to present these certificates each month and I would encourage all of you to nominate colleagues and teams who go above and beyond.

### **Sheer determination**

There are many elements that make up a **finalist** at the Staff Excellence Awards, but every one of them shows sheer determination, true grit and strives to make things the best they possibly can be for our patients. Which, after all, is the reason we're all here.

I know that one event can't do justice to the work you do, but I hope that you'll understand from this the deep appreciation and gratitude for what you do, not just from me but from your peers and your patients too.

Huge congratulations to all our finalists and indeed to everyone who was nominated. I hope you'll join me in raising a glass to them.

But most of all, thank you to everyone for all their hard work, dedication and commitment.

You're all NHS heroes.

### **Find out more**

If you have any questions about anything I've mentioned above, please email me at **[oonagh.fitzgerald@gwh.nhs.uk](mailto:oonagh.fitzgerald@gwh.nhs.uk)** or call 01793 605553.

Find out all about this year's **Staff Excellence Awards finalists** and the

**award categories**, on the **intranet**.

Thank you again.

**Oonagh Fitzgerald**  
**Director of Human Resources**

## **Help spread the news**

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