



Press release – Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Extraordinary efforts of NHS & Social Care workforce to be recognised at national Our Health Heroes Awards Ceremony

On the twelve-month anniversary of the first UK lockdown, staff from NHS Trusts and independent Health and Social Care organisations across the country are coming together with sector and government leaders to reflect on this pertinent milestone and shine a collective light on those working incessantly behind the scenes. Thousands of individuals and teams have been making an incalculable difference to the lives of patients and peers, under immense pressure over the last year, and it is vital they receive the national recognition deserved.

On March 23, the fifth national [Our Health Heroes Awards](#) Ceremony is providing an opportunity for the health and care workforce to gather virtually, from across all four nations, and celebrate the specialisms, diversity of skill, and innovation, that truly embody their shared purpose – one team, united by the desire to provide care and support that makes a resounding difference, not just to service users, but to one another.

Developed for the sector and chosen by the sector, the annual Awards' platform delivered by Skills for Health, the Sector Skills Council for Health, enables teams and leaders to show their unwavering support for their *entire* workforce, without whom, the health system simply could not function. And what better day to pay tribute and reflect on the courage, compassion, and devote, innate kindness that makes the workforce so extraordinary, than on the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown.

With a shortlist of 19 inspirational finalists, Skills for Health, together with partners NHS Employers, UNISON and Bevan Brittan, are now encouraging the entire nation to join in the celebration, as this year's national Our Health Heroes winners are crowned, by registering for the free Awards ceremony today.

[Register here to watch the ceremony live!](#)

Hosted virtually by Candace Miller, Executive Director, Skills for Health, supported by John Rogers, Chief Executive, Skills for Health, and Jeremy Newman, Chairman of the Skills for Health Board, the Awards will be presented by several special guests and partners including:

Michelle Wayt, Assistant Director, NHS Employers

Sara Gorton, Head of Health, UNISON

Roz Norman, Health Service Group Executive Chair, UNISON

Dr Navina Evan, CEO, Health Education England

David Hare, CEO, Independent Healthcare Providers Network

Prerana Issa, Chief People Officer, NHS England & NHS Improvement



Niamh Mckenna, CIO, NHS Resolution
Erika Bannerman, NHS Shared Business Services
John Clark, Head of Awards and Assessment Services, SFJ Awards

Plus, special messages from:

Edward Argar – Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care
Alex Norris – Shadow Minister for Health and Social Care

Watch the winners announced from the comfort of your own home or desk, and don't miss this opportunity to recognise, celebrate and reflect on the incredible national efforts of our NHS and Social Care people over the last twelve months, and into the future.

Follow [#OurHealthHeroes](#) on Twitter for all the latest updates.

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Notes to editors

About Skills for Health

[Skills for Health](#) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to the development of an improved and sustainable healthcare workforce across the UK. Established in 2002, as the Sector Skills Council for Health for the UK health sector, it is the authoritative voice on workforce skills issues and offers proven solutions and tools, with the expertise and experience to use them effectively.

About UNISON

[UNISON](#) is one of the UK's largest trade unions, serving more than 1.3 million members. They represent full-time and part-time staff who provide public services, although they may be employed in both the public and private sectors.

About NHS Employers

[NHS Employers](#) is the employers' organisation for the NHS in England. They support NHS workforce leaders through practical tools and resources, expert advice, and guidance, and by listening to employers to ensure their voice is represented in health policy and practice.

About Bevan Brittan

[Bevan Brittan](#) is a Top 100 national law firm, providing a comprehensive range of legal and advisory services to over 800 businesses and market-leading support for health and social care, housing, and local and central government clients.

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