



## **Torbay Hospital security guard Chris Sparks nominated for prestigious national award**

**Torbay Hospital security guard Chris Sparks has been nominated for a national Our Health Heroes Award, delivered by [Skills for Health](#). This is in recognition of his tireless dedication to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff, visitors and people in the care of Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.**

Recently, the NHS has reported a rise in instances of violence and abuse directed at staff members. This underlines the importance of having committed, proactive and approachable security personnel like Chris on-hand to protect those working on the frontline.

32-year-old Chris, who is known for his impeccable appearance and dedicated to helping where he can, is an unflappable father of one, poised and ready to step into the breach at a moment's notice.

From shovelling snow on his day off to taxiing in staff during bus strikes, Chris goes above and beyond to ensure the safety, security and smooth running of the hospital. These are just two examples of numerous situations and occasions where Chris has gone that extra-mile to support the organisation.

Despite dealing with challenging circumstances, he remains calm under pressure and is mindful that behind the abusive or threatening behaviours, more often than not, there is a person in pain or distress.

Chris' cool-head and stoical nature have paid dividends. He was recently promoted into a supervisory role, where he has wasted no time in implementing better training for his colleagues and educating clinicians to ensure patients and visitors are safer and more protected. A willingness to embrace innovation and improvement has also seen Chris get behind the wheel of an ATV to help free up ambulance crew for other duties.

Liz Davenport, Chief Executive for Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Congratulations to Chris for a nomination which is very well deserved; we are all incredibly proud. Chris' caring and compassionate approach to the people we care for, even in challenging situations, is second to none. He is a crucial part of our safety team and proactively supports the work of the wider department and organisation.

"Chris is an exceptional example for our organisation and our values, and deserves recognition for what he has achieved since he has been a member of our Torbay and South Devon family."

If you'd like to vote for Chris in the operational support worker of the year award category, sponsored by UNISON, visit: <https://bit.ly/3EZ0kXo>

**ENDS**