



**social
WORKER
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS**

2024
WINNERS



Congratulations to all finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2024

BASW England – Headline Sponsor of the
Social Worker of the Year Awards 2024.

BASW is the UK's only professional association for social
work and social workers – the ethical home of social work.



Discover more at
[basw.co.uk](https://www.basw.co.uk)

Contents

06
Social Work
Student of the Year

07
University Social Work
Lecturer of the Year

08
NQ Adult Social Worker
of the Year

09
NQ Children's Social
Worker of the Year

10
Practice Educator
of the Year

11
Team Leader of the
Year, Adult Services

12
Team Leader of the Year,
Children's Services

13
Supportive Social
Work Employer
Award

14
Team of the Year,
Adult Services
(including MDTs)

15
Team of the Year,
Children's Services
(including MDTs)

16
Mental Health
Social Worker
of the Year

17
Approved Mental
Health Professional
(AMHP) of the Year

18
Technology-Enabled
Lives and Innovation
in Practice Award

19
Practitioner-Led
Research Award

20
Social Justice
Advocate Award

21
Adult Social Worker
of the Year

22
Children's Social
Worker of the Year

23
Lifetime Achievement
Award

24
Overall Social Worker
of the Year

25
Trustee
comments

26
Finalists
2024

28
Our Judging
Panel

32
Our
Sponsors



Find your next Social Work role with Sanctuary Personnel

Browse hundreds of exclusive Social Worker jobs on our website, or register today and our award-winning team will match you to the best possible roles in your area.



Thousands of Social Workers placed since 2004



Working with local authorities nationwide



Multi-award-winning services



Rated Excellent on Trustpilot



West Sussex County Council are proud to be the public sector sponsor of the Social Work Awards 2024.



We would like to congratulate all award winners and nominees. The work you do every day makes a positive difference to the lives of the most vulnerable children, young people and adults in your communities.

If you would like to find out more about social work opportunities in West Sussex we would love to hear from you.

For more details visit:

 westsussex.gov.uk/cscsr

 westsussex.gov.uk/careersinadultsocialwork

Or contact our friendly recruitment team:

 hrrecruitment@westsussex.gov.uk

 01243 642148

Follow us on LinkedIn:

 Children First West Sussex

Gold Award Winner

Tienga Ngale
Brunel University

Tienga has far exceeded expectations during his social work training so far.

He brings a flair for creativity to his studies, writing poetry on his experiences and placements, and taking on the role of co-producer, researcher and co-host for the university's podcast.

On the latest season of 'How Does the Social Work?', Tienga has explored the topic of social work placements in discussions with a number of different guests, and was praised by his co-host for displaying sensitivity, curiosity and humility in his approach to difficult subjects.

As student representative for his cohort, Tienga has successfully navigated the group through different challenges faced by students and found positive resolutions. He also makes a diverse and significant contribution to the social work community outside of university, including volunteering with Social Work Without Borders, and co-facilitating open discussions on death and dying at the West London Death Cafe, which is held quarterly.

Tienga has excelled academically and presented his dissertation research on parents who migrated from Somalia at the 2024 JUSWA conference.

There is no doubt that he will go on to influence many lives in the future.

Gold Award Winner

David Marsland
University of Hull

David Marsland's inspiring character, personality and approach to social work education has made a huge difference to his students and colleagues at the University of Hull.

With over 20 years' experience in adult safeguarding, David brings a wealth of knowledge to his role and a passion for human rights and anti-oppressive practice. He is also an active researcher and has most recently been involved in research on the importance of forensic services within residential care settings when looking at non-accidental injuries.

David is strongly motivated to bring people into the profession who can make a real difference and has been particularly active in ensuring that anyone can apply, regardless of their background. He has also gone above and beyond in his supervisory role for social work apprentices, co-creating peer reflective sessions that are designed to broaden their horizons.

Outside of teaching, David makes a significant contribution to the wider social work community. He volunteers his time to numerous organisations that support adults with learning disabilities, including sharing his love of music via Gig Buddies and Hull Red.

David is a proud father of a "fabulously autistic" son and he has brought his own experiences of social work to his teaching. He treats everyone he meets with unconditional positive regard and has clearly influenced many social workers to pursue a career in adult social care.

Silver Award Winner
Hannah Louise Barnes, University of Sussex

Silver Award Winner
Nigel Kelleher, Edge Hill University

Gold Award Winner

Elizabeth Okankor Badu
Central Bedfordshire Council

Elizabeth stands out as a Newly Qualified Social Worker who has made a big impact in a short amount of time.

Described by her colleagues as a breath of fresh air, Elizabeth first joined the Hospital Discharge First-Response team as a student social worker before becoming a permanent staff member after graduating and starting her ASYE. Here, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to community social work values and a creative approach to practice.

She always puts the person she is supporting at the centre and this was illustrated in the case example included with her nomination. The woman, who was a wheelchair user and of African heritage, had been left for hours without care and support after being transferred to a home that was neither diverse or culturally appropriate for her needs.

While the woman was upset on her first visit, Elizabeth challenged the perception of others that she was 'difficult to work with' and instead used her skills to begin to build a trusting relationship. Together they produced a plan that ensured her needs were met.

Afterwards, the service user commented: "I wish Elizabeth could be my social worker forever."

Elizabeth treats everyone with dignity and respect and has demonstrated the ability to think outside the box to bring about positive and lasting outcomes for the people she supports.

Silver Award Winner
Aaron Evans, London Borough of Hounslow

Gold Award Winner

Holly Shreeves
Central Bedfordshire Council

Holly Shreeves is a social worker with less than a year's experience but already her practice and approach has been recognised as outstanding by her managers.

Holly's passion for supporting young people can be traced back to when she was just a teenager herself and volunteered at a pupil referral unit. Throughout her time at university, where she studied psychology, she gave her time to a women's charity for addiction and as an appropriate adult. She later moved into youth work as a mentor for young people in crisis.

As a Newly Qualified Social Worker in the council's Family Solutions Team, this passion and commitment to remaining child-focused shines through in each case Holly takes on.

She has excelled at creative direct work, supporting one young person to have a safe space to open up to her by taking him regularly for walks. She has also ensured that the young people she supports participate in their care and the trusting relationships she builds has led to many of them attending their own meetings - an uncommon occurrence among teenagers.

In her first year, Holly has also held some incredibly complex and challenging cases, including a young person at high-risk of criminal exploitation. But she has managed this to the highest professional standard and is credited by her colleagues as already modelling the values and behaviours of a practitioner with considerably more experience.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Helen Podesta, Milton Keynes Council

Gold Award Winner

Zainab Sulaiman
Cambridgeshire County Council

Zainab goes the extra mile to give students a positive learning experience. She is known among her colleagues for holding a level of care and empathy that is second to none, and for really taking the time to get to know and mentor those she supports.

One of her standout achievements has been the development of reflective workshops on anti-racist practice and allyship throughout adult social care services. She has made a remarkable difference by setting up the Black and Asian ASYE support network, which has provided a space for her colleagues to come together and explore their experiences.

Zainab is a champion for anti-racist social work practice and advocates particularly hard for her students who have faced discrimination in previous roles due to protected characteristics.

The impact she has made on those she supports was reflected throughout her nomination, with past and current students describing a practice educator who is warm, encouraging, and always available for supervision. She was also praised for her strong understanding of social work theories and how she supports students to use these in their written and practical work.

A truly inspiring ambassador for the profession, Zainab is leading by example to drive change, especially in the area of equality, diversity and inclusion.

Supported by:



Gold Award Winner

Sue Bunker
Shropshire Council

Whether it's volunteering to pilot a new project or turning around struggling teams, Sue is a team manager who does not shy away from a challenge. Instead, she inspires everyone around her with her infectious enthusiasm, passion and positivity.

In flood-hit Shrewsbury, she developed strong relationships with local agencies and has often been the first to respond to individuals in crisis. She actively supports her practitioners out in the field and has regularly spent hours ensuring vulnerable residents have the care they need.

Within the council, Sue was last year asked to step in and unite a struggling team, which was based across two different locations and facing significant cultural issues.

Implementing changes around efficiency and responsibility, Sue helped the staff to recognise the value of operating as one. She was successful in bringing them together and this has led to improvements in absence, performance and relationships.

Sue has also recently piloted a community reablement project, which used technology and a multiagency approach with OTs to support individuals to remain independent.

Sue was credited by her service manager as a social worker with a "wonderful personality and demeanour" who sees the best in everyone and invests herself in all that she does.

Silver Award Winner
Maxine Burt, Essex County Council

Silver Award Winners
Carol Monahan, Wiltshire Council
Joe Hockaday, Essex County Council

Gold Award Winner

Clare Luxton
 Bath and North East Somerset Council

Clare has a gift for practising with kindness and compassion.

Since starting her social work training in 2006, she has gone on to undertake a variety of roles in children's services. This includes as a social worker in Front Door Teams, Children in Care and Child Protection, but also as a Harmful Sexual Behaviours specialist, Independent Reviewing Officer and Deputy Team Manager.

In her current role, Clare leads the Adolescent and Child Exploitation (ACE) team, which is made up of family support workers and social workers. They work across early intervention and universal schools support through to active exploitation and county lines cases.

The team has faced many serious incidents, including stabbings, deaths and incarcerations, but in each situation, Clare has been a reliable and caring manager for her staff. She leads by example in never being afraid to be open and honest about her own feelings, while always reaching out to colleagues to ensure they feel supported to do the same.

Clare has also been instrumental in implementing contextual safeguarding into Bath and North East Somerset Council and developing the multiagency response to child exploitation, including setting up a National Referral Mechanism panel. She has built strong relationships with local police, schools and NGOs, and is proactive in bringing the community together to effect change.

Clare stands out as a manager who not only gets alongside her staff, but also the children and families they support. She has clearly had a positive impact on many people's lives.

Gold Award Winner

London Boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth

There are several ingredients to Wandsworth Council's success as a social work employer.

It has prioritised career development by establishing a pathway that offers social workers the opportunity to progress through senior, advanced and specialist roles. Staff can also undertake training in systemic practice and motivational interviewing to become accredited systemic practitioners, or later, family therapists.

The Council has implemented a Family Safeguarding model, which has seen multi-disciplinary professionals, such as domestic abuse, parental mental health, and substance misuse practitioners, embedded in the social work teams. The model was also structured in a way to ensure that all social workers have low caseloads, supporting an average of 10.7 children each, which enables them to deliver the interventions families need.

Supervision is also integral to Family Safeguarding. This is conducted in groups, and managers have been freed up to lead reflective supervision by dedicated business support officers who record the sessions.

The proof is in the pudding: the council has successfully reduced its social worker turnover rate down to 16% and its use of agency staff to 9%, both below London rates. Meanwhile, social workers say there is "a zest for systemic ideas" in the service and they are able to practice much more creatively and dynamically.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
 Hartlepool Borough Council

Silver Award Winner
 Danielle Jeenah, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Gold Award Winner

Reconnect: Care after Custody Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Established in 2022, the Reconnect: Care after Custody team is made up of 20 individuals who work tirelessly to change the lives of a client group that is so often overlooked.

The team offers support and release planning for up to 12 weeks prior to release from prison. It consists of a range of professionals including mental health nurses, social workers, and staff who have lived experienced of the criminal justice system and of working with individuals with multiple disadvantages.

The aim is to improve continuity of care for vulnerable people leaving prison by working with them before they leave, as well as supporting their transition to community-based services.

At any one time, the team support an average of 200 people and the ethos at the heart of all they do is that "people aren't hard to reach but services can be!". They have demonstrated the ability to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the individuals who may previously have found it difficult to trust services.

The team uses a person-centred and trauma-informed approach to build trusting relationships. They believe that while assessments are important, the focus of their social work is around hopes, dreams and aspirations, and working with people to support them to achieve their goals.

The positive impact their work has made is evident in the testimonials from service users, who described a team that is non-judgemental, never gives up and always believes in people.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner

St Richard's Hospice Specialist Palliative Care Social Work Team,
St Richard's Hospice

Gold Award Winner

People from Abroad Team Norfolk County Council

Immigration social work is a complex field, but the People from Abroad Team has developed an approach that is now regarded by the Home Office as an example of excellence.

The team, which has helped more than 500 people to date, supports children and families in need who struggle to access traditional services due to their immigration status; resettled refugee families; and families who have no recourse to public funds.

Staff have walked the talk when it comes to community social work, basing themselves out of a local library to ensure services can be delivered from an open and non-threatening setting. This not only allows social workers and other practitioners to deliver timely support to vulnerable and distressed people, especially when crises occur, but also to draw on the wider resources available within the library such as English language, craft and reading groups.

The team is flexible and proactive and is always seeking to improve its offer to ensure that the people in its care can grow. One notable example is its recent development of a weekly women's group, after recognising a gap in provision. This has given migrant women a safe space to share their experiences and feel empowered to learn new strengths and skills.

In the words of a Home Office representative, nothing is too much of an ask for the People from Abroad Team, who consistently go above and beyond for the families they support.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner

The Children's Mental and Emotional Health Team,
West Sussex County Council

Gold Award Winner

Fran Ashton
Humber NHS Teaching Foundation Trust & Hull City Council

When Fran Ashton took on the role of Principal Social Worker at Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust in 2016, there were just 30 qualified social workers working there.

Now, there are approximately 100 employed by the Trust in a range of settings and diverse roles, thanks to Fran's hard work. She is credited by her colleagues for spearheading the recruitment and retention process to grow the service, including setting up the ASYE programme to ensure the Trust provides high quality placements and opportunities.

At the heart of her success is Fran's unparalleled commitment to mental health social work and her belief that advancing the role of practitioners will lead to better outcomes for the people they support. She is a champion for the discipline and has continued to advocate for it, despite often being the solitary social work voice within a health-focused setting.

She has successfully integrated efficient social work positions within the Trust but has also cultivated strong and supportive relationships with the local authority, which has helped to maintain links and create further opportunities for collaboration.

Fran's achievements often fly under the radar, but she is clearly valued by those who work alongside her and has been persistent in her pursuit for meaningful and positive change.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner

Georgie Dredge, Essex County Council

Gold Award Winner

Dr Matt Simpson
Wiltshire Council / Bournemouth University

Dr Matt Simpson was a practitioner of principle.

A hub AMHP in Wiltshire, and Senior Lecturer and AMHP Programme Lead at Bournemouth University, Matt was guided by the belief that referrals for MHA assessments should be carefully considered and detention under the MHA should be a last resort and only proceed if all other alternatives had been exhausted. Even when faced with the obstacles of dwindling resources and overstretched services, he would always encourage others to challenge the inevitability of detention that seemed to underpin so many MHA assessments.

This made Matt not only a champion for those that find themselves at risk of being assessed under the Mental Health Act, but also a force for change in AMHP practice across the country.

In November 2022 he completed his PhD thesis, which was based on Section 13(1) of the MHA, which places a duty on an AMHP to consider a referral for a MHA assessment. Matt explored AMHP decision making at the point of referral and identified actions that can be taken at a much earlier point in the process to avert unnecessary assessment and detention.

His research struck a chord with AMHPs across the country and has directly influenced practice, with many AMHP services inspired to review their own approach as a result.

While Matt very sadly passed away at the start of this year, his passion for the job and commitment to upholding the rights of vulnerable people lives on in the memory of his peers, and his work and approach will continue to influence those who come after him.

A much-loved colleague, manager and teacher, Matt was truly an exemplary AMHP.

Silver Award Winner

Kenton Fairweather, Sunderland City Council

Gold Award Winner

TACT Connect TACT- The Adolescent and Children’s Trust

The Adolescent and Children’s Trust (TACT) has used technology to address one of the most challenging times for children in care: the transition to independent living.

In 2019, it launched TACT Connect, a membership scheme that offers both virtual and in-person activities to young people aged 15 and above. The organisation recognised that transitioning out of foster care was often a daunting and isolating time, and it wanted to provide a lifeline and a supportive community for individuals navigating this.

Through an online platform, young people can stay connected and build meaningful relationships, as well as access workshops, events, resources and guidance.

The TACT team has ensured that providing practical, emotional and peer support is integral to the scheme, but they have also included plenty of opportunities for fun.

Young people have been able to develop new skills, such as cooking or crafting, attend weekend breaks, and make use of the ‘Bargain Bay’, which allows them to request one gift each month, focused on fun, self-care or self-development.

The successful initiative has already attracted 186 members, with an average monthly attendance of 60% across various groups, one-to-one sessions and digital content.

For the young people involved, TACT Connect has become “a family”, a community that offers “phenomenal support” and one that is “always there when you need anything”.

Gold Award Winner

Anna Bouch Brighton and Hove City Council

One of the first social workers in Brighton and Hove to develop a practice-led research project, Anna opted to explore the Care Act concept of ‘wellbeing’.

She considered how social workers use this concept in their own practice, undertaking a research study and writing up her findings. The work was completed to such a high standard that it was published in national social work academic journals. She also did the research alongside the day job, which colleagues say is testament to her enthusiasm and commitment.

This initial project has had a snowball effect for Anna and the council. She went on to have more of her own research published - including a project on social work in hospitals - but has also heavily influenced the development of a practitioner research culture. She is now firmly known as the ‘go to’ for anything related to research or evidence-based practice.

Anna currently provides supervision for four practitioners within her social work team - one is undertaking doctoral level research, two are researching at a predoctoral level, and another is being supported by Anna to produce a doctoral research project independently.

All four of these social workers were inspired by Anna to undertake their own research and she successfully supported three of them to secure funding for their work.

She truly embodies the qualities of an outstanding social work researcher.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner Technology Enhanced Lives Service, Kent County Council

Silver Award Winner Hannah Kingsford, Kent County Council

Gold Award Winner

Anti-Racist Movement (A.R.M.) Independent platform for Black Female Social Workers nationwide

The Anti-Racist Movement (A.R.M.) has taken a unique approach to challenging racism.

The group, which provides a safe space for Global Majority female social workers, uses reflective supervision to empower members to recognise their contributions to the profession.

The founders recognised the systemic challenges that Black women often endure, and wanted to create a space where social workers could openly share their personal experiences, feel understood, and be supported to effect change within their workplace.

The group discussions are attended by members from both voluntary and statutory agencies and education and academia. They often focus on practitioner wellbeing and self-confidence, as this can be significantly affected by microaggressions and racist incidents at work.

A.R.M. has made strides forward in shining a light on racism in the broader profession, holding an annual conference in 2022 and 2023, with plans for a third on the way. It also runs workshops and community-building activities, such as a book club for continuous learning.

The group was founded on the principles of fearlessness, joyfulness, and unapologetic self-expression and it is described by its members as indispensable.

As one commented: "I never knew how much I needed this space until it arrived. When we are feeling downtrodden, the group enable us to rise."

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Dawn Henderson, Dorset Council

Gold Award Winner

Chloe Lambert Shropshire Council

Chloe's dedication to values-based social work shone through her nomination.

A Senior Social Worker in Shropshire's community team, she is a practitioner who strongly believes in the potential of others, doesn't shy away from positive risk-taking, and puts the goals and wishes of the individuals she supports at the centre of her approach.

This commitment to human rights was evident even in her early days as a Newly Qualified Social Worker when, while working for a large residential provider, she registered over 300 adults with learning disabilities to vote. Many had never been registered before.

More recently, she has worked to reduce the highly restrictive care package of an individual who had a brain injury, despite concerns from their family and care provider. Advocating for her service user and working at their pace, she was successful in reducing this over 12 months, from 133 to 14 hours of support per week and assistive technology.

Chloe is passionate about social work education and in her additional role as teaching consultant to local universities, she has delivered several sessions on adult social work topics. She has also successfully developed practitioners through apprenticeship to full qualification.

As her Director of Adult Social Services commented, "Chloe is simply an excellent practitioner who achieves excellent outcomes for both service users and student social workers alike."

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Parminder Sangha, Worcestershire County Council

Gold Award Winner

Cherry F. Ricketts
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Cherry has helped hundreds of young people through her commitment to changing the status quo on youth homelessness and overhauling local authority protocols and procedures.

A dedicated member of Hammersmith and Fulham Children's Services since 1997, Cherry has been the Principal Social Worker for youth homelessness for the last five years. On a daily basis, she is solely responsible for 16 and 17-year-olds who present as homeless.

In the role, she has been a strong advocate for homeless children and teenagers, ensuring that their voices are heard by senior leadership and are at the forefront of any decisions. She has also developed leaflets and letters to give out to young people and their families to support their understanding of the complex processes and legal dilemmas they face.

This has led to the council's response to youth homelessness being recognised by Ofsted, with the inspector commenting that young people received a positive and helpful service, which addresses any immediate risk to safety. Other local authorities have also sought out Cherry's input and she has met with children's services departments to share her learning.

Cherry is valued by her colleagues as a kind, empathetic and reliable practitioner and has worked tirelessly to achieve better outcomes for children and young people.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Hema Johal, Cafcass

Gold Award Winner

Susan Banyard
West Sussex County Council

Susan embodies true social work values and ethics, and is known for her unwavering belief that there is a family out there for all children, "we just need to find them".

A dedicated social worker for more than three decades, she first worked in residential settings and the Children We Care For team, before settling in the fostering and kinship service. Here, she has spent 20 years making an enormous difference to the lives of children and families.

Sue has been committed to create a nurturing and supportive environment for all involved in fostering and she has made a particular contribution to raising awareness of Children who Foster. By giving presentations that highlight the importance of supporting these children, she has helped others to recognise the invaluable role they play in the fostering community.

She has also approached the recruitment of foster carers with similar passion. She has supported post-approval in the fostering teams as an advanced supervising social worker, helped deliver 'skills to foster' workshops, and given up her free time to attend the United Foster Care Association events to promote fostering and the role of foster carers.

Now retired, Sue continues to contribute as a social worker in the bank team.

Sue is a much-loved colleague with a 'heart of gold' and has been an asset not just to her team and the fostering service, but also to the profession. As her former team manager aptly commented, she deserves to be recognised for her enthusiasm, commitment and dedication.

Supported by:



Silver Award Winner
Jennifer Gander, Brighton and Hove City Council

Overall Winner

People from Abroad Team Norfolk County Council

The People from Abroad Team stood out as a group of social workers who have enabled the displaced and often stigmatised people they support to feel welcome, comfortable and safe.

In recent years, the team has faced significant demand for its services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it stepped in to provide support for over 100 asylum seekers placed at the first contingency accommodation in the East of England. Following the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban, it received as many families for resettlement as possible. It has also housed and supported Ukrainian families who are dealing with the effects of trauma.

In each case, the team has risen to the challenge. Staff are compassionate and empathetic and take a holistic, trauma-informed approach to their work. They are passionate about providing a positive experience for families and a property that truly feels like a home.

The team have also ensured that they have the skills to advocate for the people they support, taking on further learning to develop expert knowledge on immigration. This has included three social workers becoming registered immigration advisors.

The impact of their work is perhaps best described by one service user, who said the team had provided "a glimmer of hope and a sense of stability during a time of uncertainty."

Supported by:



The professional association for social work and social workers

Sherry Malik, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees

The People from Abroad team provide a vital service for families and individuals fleeing their own countries and arriving here in circumstances none of us could ever imagine ourselves in. They support them to rebuild their lives, step by step - from accommodation to language needs, from schools for the children to getting to know the area and to settle in the community. They do it with compassion, kindness and without judgement and in creative ways with diminishing resources. Their work truly deserves this accolade.

Jon Glasby, Trustee

Social work is about social justice, and it's amazing to see what the Team are doing to support children and families facing additional barriers because of their immigration status. Working out of community settings like the library and providing such a person-centred approach helps to break down barriers and get closer to the people we work with. There's never been a more important time to celebrate a contribution like this one!

Lisa Buttar, Trustee

A remarkable team who have shown their commitment to both humane and professional practice, challenging systemic barriers to provide services to children and their families. They stood out for their innovative approach and the positive impact they have had on those they support.



List of finalists 2024

Social Work Student of the Year

Name	Place of study
Hannah Louise Barnes	University of Sussex
Katie Teeling	Edge Hill University
Scott Richardson	Open University
Tienga Ngale	Brunel University
Vishal Udaya Kumar	Brunel University

University Social Work Lecturer of the Year

Name	Employer
David Marsland	University of Hull
Emma Ainsley	Canterbury Christ Church University
Nigel Kelleher	Edge Hill University
Rebecca Stephens	University of Sussex
Stephanie Jones	Staffordshire University

Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year

Name	Employer
Aaron Evans	London Borough of Hounslow
David Heaton	Northumberland County Council
Elizabeth Okankor Badu	Central Bedfordshire Council
Ellie Vincent	Norfolk County Council
Jodie Gooday	Essex County Council
Tafadzwa Nathaniel Gonditii	Humber NHS Teaching Foundation Trust & Hull City Council

Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year

Sponsored by West Sussex County Council

Name	Employer
Chloe-Ann Turner	Central Bedfordshire Council
Emma Cove	Portsmouth City Council
Helen Podesta	Milton Keynes Council
Holly Shreeves	Central Bedfordshire Council
Klaudia Skubera	Cambridgeshire County Council
Louise Allonby	Essex County Council

Practice Educator of the Year

Sponsored by London Boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth

Name	Employer
Clare Alexander	North Lincolnshire Council
Maxine Burt	Essex County Council
Tamsin Suttentwood	Essex County Council
Wendy Jill Hardman	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
Zainab Sulaiman	Cambridgeshire County Council

Team of the Year, Adult Services (including MDTs)

Sponsored by UNISON

Adult Learning Disabilities Team Sunderland City Council
Adult Social Care – Lincoln Hospital Lincolnshire County Council
Hull Community Mental Health Team Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust
People from Abroad Team Norfolk County Council
Reconnect: Care After Custody Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
St Richard's Hospice Specialist Palliative Care Social Work Team St Richard's Hospice

Team of the Year, Children's Services (including MDTs)

Sponsored by West Sussex County Council

Asylum Through Care Team Redcar and Cleveland Local Authority
Mosaic Foster Care Social Work Mosaic Foster Care
People from Abroad Team Norfolk County Council
Staying Together Team London Borough of Bexley
The Children's Mental and Emotional Health Team West Sussex County Council

Supportive Social Work Employer Award

Sponsored by Sanctuary Personnel

Cambridgeshire County Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Together For Children, Sunderland
London Boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth
West Sussex County Council

Team Leader of the Year, Adult Services

Name	Employer
Carol Monahan	Wiltshire Council
Charlotte Gordon	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Gina Grimes	City of Stoke-on-Trent Council
Hazel Welburn	North Lincolnshire Council
Joe Hockaday	Essex County Council
Sue Bunker	Shropshire Council
Yvo Heidemans	Essex County Council

Team Leader of the Year, Children's Services

Name	Employer
Andrew O'Sullivan	London Borough of Hounslow
Carolyn Ellis	Essex County Council
Clare Luxton	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Danielle Jeenah	London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Hayley Driver	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
Michael Radley	London Borough of Sutton

Technology-Enabled Lives and Innovation in Practice Award

Name	Employer
Rebecca Alton	Lincolnshire County Council
Stockton Borough Council Adult Social Care	Stockton Borough Council
TACT Connect	TACT - The Adolescent and Children's Trust
Technology Enhanced Lives Service	Kent County Council

Practitioner-led Research Award

Sponsored by West Midlands ADASS

Name	Employer
Anna Bouch	Brighton and Hove City Council
Dr Julie Feather and Nicola Whiteside	Edge Hill University
Hannah Kingsford	Kent County Council
Katy Cleece	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
Nick Perry	East Sussex County Council
Revelstoke Road Children's Home	Together for Children

Social Justice Advocate Award

Sponsored by Essex County Council

Name	Employer
Anti-Racist Movement (A.R.M.), Independent platform for Black Female Social Workers nationwide	
Dawn Henderson	Dorset Council
Helen Hewitt	Renew/Hull City Council
Natasha Winters	Derby City Council
Ola Tony-Obot and Edward Garwe	Together for Children Sunderland

Mental Health Social Worker of the Year

Sponsored by Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Name	Employer
Anthony Walton	Sunderland City Council
Emma Crowe	Stockton Borough Council
Fran Ashton	Humber NHS Teaching Foundation Trust & Hull City Council
Georgie Dredge	Essex County Council
Hannah Rogerson	City of Doncaster Council
Nicole Jones	Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) of the Year

Name	Employer
Andrew Jamieson	Stockton Borough Council
Dr Matt Simpson	Wiltshire Council / Bournemouth University
Kenton Fairweather	Sunderland City Council
Lorna Cornett	Brighton and Hove City Council
Richard Nunn	Warrington Borough Council
Stewart Telford	Devon County Council

Adult Social Worker of the Year

Sponsored by Sanctuary Personnel

Name	Employer
Charlotte Chastney	Suffolk County Council
Chloe Lambert	Shropshire Council
Jane Hawthorn	Nottinghamshire County Council
Lauren Warner	Gloucestershire County Council
Parminder Sangha	Worcestershire County Council

Children's Social Worker of the Year

Sponsored by Cafcass

Name	Employer
Debbie Barnes	Essex County Council
Cherry F. Ricketts	London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Hema Johal	Cafcass
Jonas Kurkalang	London Borough of Hounslow
Peter Byrne	Sefton Borough Council

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by BASW England

Name	Employer
Helen Taylor	Warrington Borough Council
Hilary Barrett	Cafcass
Jennifer Gander	Brighton and Hove City Council
Michael Crozier	Sunderland City Council
Rachel Humphries	Cafcass
Rebekah Button	Kent County Council
Susan Banyard	West Sussex County Council

Thank you to our judging panel

Judging for the 2024 Social Worker of the Year Awards took place in July, when judges attended virtual and in-person panels to decide this year's finalists and winners.

The independent judging panel was made up of:

- Leading industry professionals: invited to join the panel based upon their expertise within the social work profession
- Those who have received support from social workers
- Previous winners

All judges kindly gave up their time on a voluntary basis.

Thank you to our judging panel, we couldn't do it without you!

Asmaat Khan

Social Worker

Angela Connor

Supportive Social Work Employer of the Year Winner 2023

Anna Grainger

Interim Social Care Manager

Bethany Erikson Rodrigues

Independent Senior Social Worker

Bev Williams MBE

Founding Patron of the Social Worker of the Year Awards

Christina Addenbrooke

Supporting Children in Education Award Winner 2023

Clare Burnett

Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year Winner 2023

Colum Conway

Chief Executive, Social Work England

Deb Solomon

Social Worker, Derbyshire County Council

Dionne Haizel-Cobbina

Advanced Practitioner – Camden Children Looked After Team

Elaine James

Social Justice Advocate Award Winner 2023

Fiona Hayward

Families and Children's Principal Social Worker, Wiltshire

Jak Savage MBE

Independent Employer and Social Care Consultant

Janti Champaneri OBE

Former Adults Operations Manager, Birmingham City Council

Kate Concannon

Head of Quality, Governance and Professional Development and PSW. Co-Chair of PSW National Network

Kirsten Bingham

Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) of the Year Winner 2023

Lucy Fitzpatrick

Social Worker, Derbyshire County Council

Nadine Boyne

Founder of Social Work DIScovery

Noel Beckett

Social Work Improvements and Quality Assurance Consultant

Norah Khan

Mental Health Social Worker

Omaid Badar

Overall Social Worker of the Year 2023 and Children's Social Worker of the Year Winner 2023

Patriche Bentick

Team Manager within the Children Looked After Service, Camden Council

Richard Ashiagbor

Lecturer and Course Leader in Social Work at London South Bank University

Robbie Irwin

Team Manager, Adult Social Care

Sarah Coleman

Social Worker

Sarah Lowe

Lifetime Achievement Award Winner 2022

Tara Morgan

Independent Social Worker Practitioner

Vanna Changlee

Principal Social Worker for Adults

Yvonne Frimpong

Adult Social Worker, Essex County Council

A special thanks to our Sponsors

Headline Sponsor

BASW England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

Corporate Partner



Public Sector Sponsor



Category Sponsors



Thank You Sponsor





Congratulations to all the finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2024!

As we proudly sponsor the Practice Educator of the Year Award category, we want to celebrate the remarkable contributions of social workers to our society.

This profession is at the best of times intense emotional labour, where compassion and kindness are essential in supporting children, adults, families and communities to navigate the challenges faced.

Celebrating your achievements not only honours your hard work but also highlights the profound impact you have on the community.

Thank you for your commitment and for the heart you bring to your vital role.

“ Your nomination is a testament the inspiring work you do every day ”

Cllr Kate Stock, Cabinet Member for Wandsworth Children's Services
 Cllr Graeme Henderson, Cabinet Member for Wandsworth Adult Care, Health and Community Safety
 Cllr Piers Allen, Lead Member for Richmond Upon Thames Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health



ESSENTIAL COVER WHEREVER YOU WORK

From **£1.30** a month

For as little as £1.30 a month our members get:

- advice, support and help at work
- a helpline that is open until midnight
- legal help for you at work and your family at home
- plus a wide range of exclusive member discounts.

Annual salary	Monthly cost
Up to £2,000	£1.30
£2,001 - £5,000	£3.50
£5,001 - £8,000	£5.30
£8,001 - £11,000	£6.60
£11,001 - £14,000	£7.85
£14,001 - £17,000	£9.70
£17,001 - £20,000	£11.50
£20,001 - £25,000	£14.00
£25,001 - £30,000	£17.25
£30,001 - £35,000	£20.30
over £35,000	£22.50

Congratulations to all the finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards. UNISON is proud to sponsor the Team of the Year Adult Services Award.

Worried about your job?
 In these uncertain times there's never been a better time to join UNISON.

Join online at joinunison.org or call free on 0800 171 2193



- wm-adass.org.uk
- [@wmadass](https://twitter.com/wmadass)
- [linkedin.com/adass-west-midlands](https://www.linkedin.com/company/adass-west-midlands)

Congratulations to all finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2024

This year we are delighted to be sponsors of the Practitioner-led Research' award



Essex County Council are proud to support the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2024

www.essex.gov.uk

We do more to support our colleagues

In Lancashire and South Cumbria, we do more to recognise, support and develop social workers who are very much a valued part of our workforce, and enable them to strengthen the skills and core values intrinsic to social work.

Start with a good job and end with a great career. Search lscft.nhs.uk/vacancies or scan the QR code



lscft.nhs.uk/vacancies



NHS
Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust



The Social Worker of the Year Awards 2025.

Do you know an inspirational social worker or team?

If so, sign up to our mailing list to be the first to hear when **nominations** for **SWA25** will open.

Place your organisation in front of thousands of social workers and key decision makers in 2025 by becoming one of our **sponsors**.



Scan the QR code to find out more or email awards@socialworkawards.com



Congratulations to all the finalists of the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2024 .

These awards provide the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the inspiring social workers who help transform people's lives.

As the largest employer of children's social workers in England, Cafcass is proud to sponsor the Children's Social Worker of the Year Award.

To learn more about the work we do, visit www.cafcass.gov.uk/working-for-us





social WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Social Work Awards Ltd.
Registered in England No. 07581130
Registered Charity No. 1144458
socialworkawards.com