

STAFF

News **n** Views

NHS
Mersey and West Lancashire
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust



MWL STAFF AWARDS 2025

#MWLStaffAwards

Let the fun begin ...









Welcome to the 2025 MWL Staff Awards

It was the most anticipated night of the year - the MWL Staff Awards.

Teams from across the Trust gathered at the Liverpool arena to celebrate their amazing colleagues, and another fantastic year of 5 Star Patient Care. This important event gives us the opportunity to put the spotlight on the extraordinary dedication and compassion of our staff and recognise the difference this makes to individuals and families within the local community. Everyone was excited to find out who had won this year's prestigious awards.



Thank you from our patients

We began the evening with a very special video message from our patients. Gary from St Helens, husband and wife Bill and Jennie from Southport, and mum and son Lynne and Matthew from Ormskirk, gave their own personal tributes to our staff for the care they've received. It was really moving to hear first-hand what a difference our staff have made.



Celebrating your achievements...



Rob Cooper, Chief Executive, presented the first awards of the evening, our Special Recognition Awards. You can read more about the awards from page 9.



After dinner the awards presentation continued, and our celebrity guests (pictured right) took to the stage to give their thanks, and highlight the very best of Team MWL.

As each winner accepted their award the room was filled with applause and cheers, a testament to teamwork and friendship.

A special guest performance

We were delighted to welcome Pop Idol Gareth Gates as this year's special guest performer to wrap up a wonderful night of celebration.

Congratulations everyone, we can't wait to see you again next year.



Chief Executive's message

It's a genuine pleasure to welcome you all tonight as we come together to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our colleagues at MWL.

I have attended many of these events in recent years, but tonight is my first annual awards as your Chief Executive, and it is truly one of the greatest honours of my career to share this evening with you.

Tonight is all about recognising the incredible dedication, skill, and compassion that each of you brings to your role every day. Whether you're directly involved in patient care, behind the scenes, or part of the teams that ensure the smooth running of our hospitals and community services, every contribution matters and plays a vital part in providing the high-quality care our patients deserve.

We know that the last few years have presented unprecedented challenges, but one thing that has remained constant is the unwavering commitment of our staff. Despite the pressures, the determination and professionalism shown by everyone working in our Trust is something to be immensely proud of.



I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the incredible impact you have on the lives of our patients, their families, and the wider community. Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed.

As we come together tonight, it's important

to reflect not only on individual achievements but also on the collective effort that makes our Trust an exceptional place to work and receive care. The success we've seen as a Trust is a direct result of your hard work, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved together over the past year.

I'd also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our guests, sponsors, and supporters who are here with us this evening. Your continued generosity allows us to make this event possible, and we are extremely grateful for your support.

Finally, a special thank you to our very own Communications Team. Each year, they organise this impressive event, working tirelessly to host an occasion fitting of the very best of the NHS. I'm sure you will join me in thanking them for this wonderful event.

I hope you enjoy the evening. Let's make tonight a celebration to remember.

Rob Cooper
Chief Executive

Our Special Guests ...

The Trust would like to thank our special guests for kindly giving their time to support the commitment of our staff, by presenting the awards to our winners and attending on the night.



Pete Price
Host



Paul Crone
Presenter



Lewis Devine
Actor



Steve Rotherham
Mayor of the
Liverpool City
Region



Kris Mochrie
Actor



Andrew Brown
Stand Up For
Southport Editor



Leanne Campbell
Presenter



Max Parker
Actor



Kate McIntyre
Presenter



Joel Ross
Presenter



Ryan Hall
Content Creator



Alex Toal
DJ and Radio
Producer



Sally Lynsey
Actor



Dylan Evans
Content Creator



Ellie Leach
Actor and Strictly
Come Dancing
Champion



Liam Fox
Actor



Andrew Kilmurray
St Helens Star
Editor



John Barnes
LFC Football
Legend



Ann O'Connor
Presenter



Lucy-Jo Hudson
Actor

Special Recognition Award Winner



Following the tragic incident in Southport in July 2024, the Trust joined with the local community to recognise staff from Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals who responded with 'the highest levels of professionalism, compassion, and courage'. Presenting the Special Recognition Award Steve Rotherham, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, shared his heartfelt thanks with all those involved, saying that the town of Southport will be forever grateful.

Reverend Martin Abrams was invited to accept the award on behalf of all the staff involved, and our guests took to their feet to honour their colleagues with an emotional standing ovation.

Outstanding Contribution Award

Congratulations to former Chairman Richard Fraser who was recognised with the Outstanding Contribution Award following just over ten years at the Trust.

Richard retired in April 2025 after a decade of dedicated service. Presenting the award, Rob Cooper, Chief Executive, expressed our deepest thanks to Richard for his invaluable support and guidance, his advocacy across the region for our hospitals, and his tireless efforts to ensure our staff get the recognition they deserve.



Lifetime Achievement Award



After serving the NHS for over 40 years and leading our Trust for an incredible 21 years, former Chief Executive Ann Marr OBE who retired in 2024 was the proud recipient of our first ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

Presenting the award, Rob Cooper, Chief Executive, shared his heartfelt thanks and admiration for all that Ann achieved, highlighting her integrity, compassion, determined spirit, and unwavering commitment to 5 Star Patient Care. Joining him on stage Ann took the opportunity to express her deep fondness for our organisation, telling staff that she missed seeing them every day, but knows they'll continue to make her proud.





Excellence in Clinical Care

This award recognises a significant commitment and contribution to delivering high quality care.



Winner

Ward 2C, Respiratory, Whiston Hospital

This forward-thinking team deliver expert care to those with significant respiratory illness. Always looking for ways to develop their service, a recently established day case unit offering rapid diagnosis and ongoing treatment has had an enormous impact on patient experience and been praised by CQC for improving the quality of care.

Highly Commended

Ward 4B, Surgical Care, Whiston Hospital

This busy multi-disciplinary surgical unit sees acute patients admitted via ED and direct GP referral, as well as planned inpatient procedures across a range of specialties. Working hard to deliver the highest standards, their keen focus on patient-centred care combined with their positivity and can-do attitude makes a real difference to every patient.

Ward 14A, Orthopaedics, Southport Hospital

Warm, friendly and welcoming, are just some of the terms used to describe this team. They reassure patients and support families both before and after surgery. Patients comment that all staff, whether clinical or non-clinical, work together to provide excellent care in a positive, efficient and caring environment.

Excellence in Quality Improvement

This award recognises where a clinical or non-clinical service has been enhanced to deliver quality improvement or increase efficiency.



Radiology Department, Whiston and St Helens hospitals

This outstanding department is committed to supporting clinical teams by providing timely and accurate diagnostic services. Named the highest performing CT unit in the country, the team is always looking at ways to advance their service, utilising the latest data insights and technology to improve pathways, reduce turnaround times and aid faster diagnosis.

Highly Commended *Musculoskeletal Service, MWL*

Year on year, this specialist service has seen a significant increase in demand. Following a recent quality improvement study, the introduction of a digital assessment and triage system has not only improved efficiency and reduced waiting times, but has ensured patients receive the right care at the right time, greatly improving outcomes.

St Helens Urgent Treatment Centre

Providing urgent care in the heart of the community, this hard-working team demonstrates exceptional resilience under sustained clinical pressures. Building strong partnerships between acute and community colleagues, they have optimised pathways to treat patients safely and timely out of hospital, whilst reducing unnecessary referrals to emergency care.





Excellence in Patient Safety

This award recognises teams or individuals who strive to deliver excellence through a culture of safety and quality improvement.



Winner

**Dementia and Delirium Team,
Southport & Ormskirk hospitals**

This team are passionate about providing a safe and comforting environment for some of our most vulnerable patients. Creating and encouraging a dementia friendly culture, that reaches beyond Southport and Ormskirk hospitals and into the local community, they deliver comprehensive training and embed best practice to ensure patients’ cognitive needs are always central to their care.

Highly Commended

Pre-operative Department, St Helens Hospital

The Pre-operative Assessment Department is an important step in the patient journey, helping to ensure the safety and wellbeing of patients before their procedure. As theatre numbers have increased, so has the demand for this service, yet this team continues to pull together working tirelessly to prepare patients, limiting delays, and preventing cancellations.

Theatres Materials Management Team, MWL

This unseen army play a pivotal role in patient safety. Seamlessly managing the ordering, storage and organisation of equipment, the team ensures that theatres across MWL have the necessary supplies readily available, minimising delays and potential risks. Colleagues say their contribution is integral to the efficient running of all our theatres and praise their tireless efforts.



Excellence in Support Services

This award recognises exceptional service in supporting the delivery of patient care.



Winner

**Estates and Facilities Department,
MWL**

From opening new theatres to building therapy units, or even meeting the ever-growing need for more and more car parking, this team always prioritises the needs of patients and staff across the entire Trust. Thanks to their hard work and high standards, in the past 12 months our hospitals received top marks in the national patient-led assessment of the care environment making MWL best in the North-West.

Highly Commended

Cold Decontamination Team, Whiston and St Helens hospitals

Working hard behind the scenes, this team support a range of specialties to deliver the highest levels of safety and quality assurance, ensuring the effective decontamination of hundreds of thousands of surgical instruments and equipment each year. On call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, they deliver a highly efficient service to support the smooth running of our hospitals.

Operational Site Managers, MWL

Against a backdrop of increasingly complex issues relating to patient discharge, this team has worked hard streamlining processes across our hospitals to effectively assist patient flow. Their valuable input is essential to co-ordinating the patient's journey, freeing up beds for those who need them most. Their energy, positivity and resilience is admired and valued by us all.

Patient Experience Award

This award recognises a contribution that has resulted in excellent patient experience.



Winner

Prosthetics Department and Laser Suite Team, Whiston and St Helens hospitals

When life delivers significant challenges through illness or injury, this team of highly knowledgeable experts use their extensive skills and innovative techniques to rebuild and transform the lives of their patients. Always empathetic and compassionate, their unwavering dedication, alongside a remarkable attention to detail, provides exceptional results of the highest standard.



Highly Commended

Endoscopy Services, Southport and Ormskirk hospitals

Despite ever increasing demand, this team works tirelessly to deliver timely diagnosis, whilst consistently providing high-quality care. Often anxious and embarrassed about the tests they require, patients regularly comment on the kindness and respect shown by our staff who go out of their way to maintain dignity and offer reassurance.

Marshalls Cross Medical Centre

This team exemplifies the values of compassion, kindness and caring in everything they do. They actively listen to their patients, taking time to learn and adapt, providing a better experience for all. Recently introducing a new online triage system with great success, they have become even more responsive to patients' needs.

People's Choice Award

This award is voted for by the readers of the St Helens Star and highlights the appreciation that patients and their families have for the excellent care they receive.

**Winner**

Diabetes Department, St Helens and Whiston hospitals

Patients say this specialist service is a lifeline when living with diabetes. Innovative, research-based and high quality, this knowledgeable team consistently help to improve day-to-day life for those they treat and have received exceptional feedback for their unwavering support and expertise. They are regularly recognised as being one of the leading departments in the country.

Highly Commended

Emergency Department, Whiston Hospital

This hardworking team faces intense pressure all year round. Yet despite the challenges, the commitment of staff is regularly praised by patients and their families. This was also recognised in a recent CQC report which stated that staff were exceptionally caring and treated patients, relatives and carers with compassion, kindness and understanding.

Zoe Hart-Davies, Midwife, Whiston Hospital

Described as the most caring, compassionate person and an outstanding midwife, Zoe embodies the Trust values. She is committed to delivering the highest standards of individualised care to every woman, baby and family, who praise her calm and reassuring nature.



People's Choice Award

This award is voted for by the readers of Stand Up for Southport and highlights the appreciation that patients and their families have for the excellent care they receive.



Winner

Paediatric Department, Ormskirk Hospital

This multidisciplinary team embodies the Trust's values each and every day. Caring for some of our youngest patients, often with complex conditions and needs, they go above and beyond to provide the highest standards of clinical and holistic care in some of the most difficult and challenging situations. They have been hailed as heroes by patients, families and carers.

Highly Commended

Raz Ngomane, Ward Catering Assistant, Southport Hospital

Nothing is too much trouble for Raz who truly makes a positive difference to the patients he meets on Ward 14a. Always happy to help, his warm and friendly manner is regularly recognised by patients who say he makes their stay a little easier and a lot less lonely. He is a credit to the Trust, and we are very proud to have him on our team.

Ward 10A, FESS, Southport Hospital

Attending hospital can be physically and mentally exhausting for a person who is frail, yet the staff on Ward 10a do everything they can to make patients feel comfortable and reassured. They deliver compassionate and personalised care for older adults and are regularly recognised for how they treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Employee of the Year

This award recognises an outstanding employee whose dedication to our organisation and values deserves the ultimate recognition.



Winner



Debbie Warburton

Ward Manager, Ward 1D, Whiston Hospital

Debbie understands that delivering 5 star patient care starts with the welfare of her team. An outstanding member of our Trust, her unwavering commitment to creating a kind, open and inclusive culture is exemplary. Always a positive role-model, she leads by example and has made great improvements to the quality, safety and the overall experience for patients and staff on her ward.

Highly Commended

Anthony Robinson, Resident Doctor, Southport Hospital

Described as one of the most empathetic doctors Anthony has time for everyone. His commitment to his patients is commendable while colleagues say his kindness and compassion extends beyond his patients as he never forgets to check on all those around him. Epitomising the MWL values, he is a credit to his profession.

Julie Woosey, Bereavement Officer, Whiston Hospital

Professional, sensitive and compassionate, Julie supports families through the most difficult times with kindness and empathy. She always goes the extra mile to assist colleagues, who say her experience and knowledge in the field of bereavement is appreciated by all and that they would be lost without her.

Team of the Year

This award recognises the outstanding performance of a team that has continuously delivered an undeniably first-class service.



Winner



Urology Department, MWL

One of the leading urology services in the region, this team are pioneers in their field. They work tirelessly to deliver innovative solutions, transform pathways and provide outstanding clinical care for patients right across MWL. The Trust receives exceptional feedback from patients who describe this team as 'the NHS at its best'.

Highly Commended

Dermatology Department, MWL

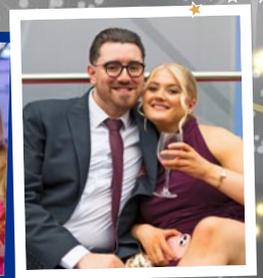
Having seen a significant increase in referrals since the COVID pandemic, this highly skilled team have developed their services, introduced new pathways and improved treatments. Experts in their field, they are recognised as a centre of excellence by their peers who trust them to care for patients with the most complex conditions.

St Helens Community District Nursing Team

Providing exceptional care to patients in their own home, this dedicated team make an enormous impact on all those they serve. Whether managing chronic conditions, providing end of life care, or responding to on-the-day clinical needs, they are available 24 hours a day to ensure patients receive the care they need, when they need it most.

A night to remember ...









A big thank you to all our sponsors

The generosity of these organisations means tonight's event is at no cost to the NHS.



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