Press Release

Staff shine at Health Education England awards

HAMPshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust dominated the 2016 Health Education England Wessex Shine Awards.

The awards recognise excellence in healthcare education and training across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Dorset and South Wiltshire – and staff from Hampshire Hospitals had a fantastic night, claiming four of the nine awards up for grabs.

The Outstanding Learner of the Year award was awarded jointly to two members of the Hampshire Hospitals team, with student nurse John Edwards and Dr Richard Healy, who both had unusual routes into their chosen careers, sharing the prize.

John was working as a chef when he contracted sepsis in 2007. He survived thanks to the team at Royal Hampshire County Hospital and was so inspired by the care he received that he decided to become a nurse, spending the last four years studying with the Open University while also working at RHCH as a care assistant.

He has achieved a distinction in every module and earlier this year he was asked to address a national conference, talking about his journey into nursing.

Dr Healy was a registered nurse before training to become a doctor. He was praised for his “thirst for continuing professional development” and introducing measures that have improved patient safety.

Dr Richard Thomas was named Inspiring Educator of the Year for his work with trainee doctors as the trust’s foundation programme director. He was commended for his going above and beyond in terms of his dedication to and passion for the programme.

Rachel Newell, Lucy Chilcott and Lucy O’Beirne won the High Performing Education and Training Team of the Year for the work they have done to improve education for nurses in critical care. They were praised by the judges for re-energising education and training, creating programmes that support career progression and sharing their ideas with other hospitals.

The award for the best poster went to Karen Griffiths, clinical nurse specialist for palliative care at the trust, whose display explained the ways in which Hampshire Hospitals is working to continue improving its outstanding end of life care.

Staff from the trust were also highly commended in a further two categories. Steve Cook and Karen Bishop were highly commended finalists in the Wonderful Workforce Solution of the Year award, with Karen Griffiths and the palliative care education team were commended in the High Performing Education and Training Team of the Year category.

Donna Green, deputy chief executive of Hampshire Hospitals, said: “Congratulations to all of our amazing winners and finalists. Winning so many awards shows how seriously we at Hampshire Hospitals take education and training.”
Ruth Monger, director of Health Education England Wessex, said: “Winning four awards is a tremendous achievement and the trust should be very proud. We see the awards and commendations as recognition of the trust’s excellent continuing work to improve services through workforce development, education and training.”

ENDS

Photo: Staff from Hampshire Hospitals celebrate together after winning a raft of awards at the Health Education England Wessex Shine Awards.

Notes to Editors

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 600,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 6,000 staff and a turnover of £353 million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

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