



Thursday, 2nd July 2026





Schedule of events

17:45

Doors open



18:15

Food service



19:45

Opening and awards ceremony



21:00

Band



22:00

DJ



00:00

Close



Welcome from Rob Aitchison, Chief Executive and Helen Hirst, Chair

Welcome to the 2026 CHuFT Awards Ceremony.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our finalists who have been chosen from a record-breaking 451 nominations. It is fantastic recognition of the positive impact being made by colleagues in a wide range of roles. Every single person, team or service nominated should feel proud of their achievements.

Our annual CHuFT awards celebrate everything which makes CHFT a great place to work, and a compassionate, kind and exceptional place for our patients to receive care.

One of the best things about CHuFT is hearing about the great work happening across the Trust where One Culture of Care truly shines through. Colleagues deliver so much day-in-day-out on our shared priorities, which are reflected by the award categories. This year we'll also have a winner of our new category, Excellence in Support Services, which spotlights those colleagues who are the backbone of many of our services across CHFT.

The awards don't end tonight, you'll see our workforce team out and about across CHFT making sure that everyone who received a nomination is recognised.

Hosting the evening is our Medical Director, Neeraj Bhasin, who will bring the noise, energy, and unique atmosphere to the awards.

We would also like to say how grateful we are to all our sponsors who have fully funded our awards, thank you.

We hope you enjoy the evening and take a moment to reflect on your wonderful achievements.

Thank you for all you do.

Rob and Helen





Finalists - Go See

Charlotte Anderson



Charlotte used frontline engagement to uncover real causes of delayed observations, challenging assumptions through shadowing and conversations. She identified practical barriers, including equipment gaps, and targeted improvements. This delivered measurable impact, increasing on-time observations by around 10% and over 2,000 more completed on time in one month, improving safety and workflow.

Theatre Equipment and Standardisation Team



The team demonstrated a proactive approach, using curiosity to challenge assumptions about theatre equipment management, engaging frontline teams and observing practice. This led to better coordination, standardisation, and reduced duplication, delivering over £250,000 in savings. They have improved reliability, streamlined processes, and enhanced colleague confidence, resulting in smoother theatre operations and better patient care.

Kim Sisson-Pell and Nicola Cocking



Kim and Nicola used feedback and external insight to redesign our induction format, challenging traditional methods. They created a streamlined, inclusive, and safety-focused programme aligned with best practice, improving learning, confidence, and early compliance. The enhanced induction better prepares colleagues for clinical roles, strengthens onboarding, and improves patient care, retention, and overall colleague experience.

Lisa Jones



Lisa improved AKI care by adopting a proactive "Go See" approach, collaborating with renal specialists to identify gaps and implement a 24/7 review process for AKI stage 2-3 patients. She developed practical tools to standardise care, increasing compliance from 27.4% to 64.5% and improving outcomes, teamwork, and patient safety.

The Stroke Team



The team demonstrated outstanding collaboration and continuous improvement by learning from high-performing stroke centres. Their work standardised data and challenged existing pathways, significantly improving stroke admissions within 4 hours from below 40% to over 60%. They have improved service design, collaboration and patient outcomes.



Finalists - Digital Champion

Abigail Cunningham



Abigail has played a key role in creating a tool which allows us to present our Martha's Rule work both internally and with external stakeholders. Her ability to translate complex data into meaningful, accessible visuals has been invaluable. Her contribution has set a new benchmark for how we understand, interpret, and communicate Martha's Rule activity.

Change Team



The team's work to support the rollout of Closed Loop Medication Administration across every inpatient area in the Trust has been remarkable. This was one of the most ambitious and safety critical digital programmes undertaken at CHFT. They showed unwavering persistence, professionalism, and empathy. They offered hands on support, and delivered consistent, clear messaging about the purpose of the change.

Jason Parker



Jason used his advanced digital expertise to safeguard a critical operational process during a major, unplanned digital system change by another organisation. Accurate placement data underpins safe rostering and workforce planning and Jason rebuilt the student placement database so it could accept, interpret, and validate the new data while preserving existing workflows and outputs relied upon by the Roster team and clinical areas.

Dennie Sebastian



Dennie has played a key role in the implementation of ambient voice technology, which allows documentation to be created automatically and accurately during patient interactions. Dennie worked closely with clinical teams to ensure the technology was user-centred, safe, and aligned with clinical needs. He has led by example, encouraging colleague adoption of new digital tools through clear guidance, governance processes, and hands-on support.

Julian Chadha, Richard Hill and the RPA and Innovation Team



The RPA team received multiple nominations for their significant impact in transforming time consuming manual processes into digital. The RPA programme has reached multiple departments across CHFT and released time back for direct patient care. The team manages automated processes that combined deliver 32,000 hours of work each year – the equivalent of over 20 full time colleagues.



Finalists - Must Dos

Operating Theatres Leadership Team



The Operating Theatres Leadership Team have demonstrated exceptional leadership in response to Never Events. Through an open and honest learning approach, they have created a culture within the team where colleagues are supported to raise concerns, challenge or pause procedures, leading to behaviours which put patient safety at the centre of theatre practice.

Aaron Corp



Aaron has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to improving patient safety. Specifically, his work to ensure safe and timely reviews of deteriorating patients and improved 4-hourly observation compliance. Aaron is an advocate for best practice and high standards and has also installed confidence in colleagues in knowing they will be heard, respected and supported.

Margaret Pryce



Margaret has made a significant and tangible impact on colleague safety, service continuity, and organisational risk management during an exceptionally pressured period within the occupational health service. She single-handedly triaged 488 referrals over four months which maintained the integrity and safety of the occupational health referral pathway during a time of workforce shortage, whilst safeguarding the wellbeing of the team.

Alex Henderson



Alex has led major improvements to ensure medicines are safely managed and stored to required standards. He has been instrumental in making safe medicines management everyone's business and embedding it into practice within Theatres at HRI. His 'can do' attitude has led to safer care for patients and improved skills, knowledge and confidence to drive change and embed best practice.

Jonathan Carbutt



Jonathan has shown dedication and commitment by taking on additional responsibility during a period of challenge within the team. His expertise has secured funding, dealt with funding challenges, met external reporting deadlines, and ensured accurate reporting of activity and income. He has worked with divisions to make sure income is maximised, addressing complex funding challenges with a proactive approach.



Finalists - Excellence in Support Services

Jamie Bussey-Thornton



Jamie delivers a vital behind-the-scenes role, improving theatre efficiency and safety across two sites. Exceeding expectations, he achieved over £250,000 in savings while strengthening equipment governance. His work enables smoother theatre lists, fewer disruptions, and earlier issue resolution, improving colleague experience and patient care - demonstrating the essential impact of high-quality support services.

Carissa Rhodes



Carissa brings an exceptional level of care pride and compassion. She maintains incredible cleanliness on Ward 12, supporting infection prevention and patient safety. Her kind words and warm smile enhance patient experience, while her teamwork and reliability support colleagues under pressure. Leading by example, she fosters high standards, a positive culture, and a safer, more compassionate environment for patients and colleagues.

Workforce Business Intelligence



The team give vital behind-the-scenes support, ensuring Electronic Staff Record systems run accurately and reliably for thousands of colleagues. Their work underpins safety, compliance, and efficient workforce processes, enabling colleagues to focus on patient care. Through high data quality, training management, and responsive support, they deliver a trusted, seamless digital environment with professionalism and resilience.

Finlay Richardson



Finlay handled a challenging incident of racial abuse with professionalism, confidence and compassion, firmly addressing unacceptable behaviour and supporting the team. Despite being one of the newest members, he showed maturity by ensuring colleagues felt safe. His actions went above and beyond, helping colleagues feel supported and valued during a difficult situation.

Sharon Rodgers



Sharon ensures a clean, safe, and welcoming dining environment, supporting patients, visitors, and colleagues with professionalism and warmth. Despite a challenging year, she showed remarkable resilience, maintaining high standards. Her compassionate mentoring of Project SEARCH students has helped many into employment, demonstrating her lasting impact through dedication, leadership, and commitment to others.



Finalists - Compassionate Leader

Louise Taylor



Described as 'oozes One Culture of Care and an absolute credit to CHFT', Louise has been highlighted as an inspiring, compassionate leader who consistently supports and develops colleagues, creating a positive and inclusive environment. She leads by example, offering guidance, reassurance, and empathy, especially during challenging times. Her leadership transformed team morale, confidence and has been an inspiration to others.

Susan Johnson and Amber Ballard



Susan and Amber provide a constant source of support to the service. Through ongoing transformation within the service, they consistently maintain a positive outlook, which is reflected across the team. They continue to look ahead with a focus on further development and improvement, reinforcing confidence and resilience among colleagues yet always with patient care at the heart of everything.

Dave Nuttall



Dave's nomination reflected how valued he is, being a friendly face, a positive influence and the 'go-to' person. Multiple colleagues described his person-centred approach, which is inclusive and brings the team together. His leadership has supported services to make brilliant progress in reducing waiting lists and supporting new ways of working, to make services more flexible and effective.

Andrew Hutchinson



Since starting in the team just one year ago, Andrew has become an anchor of support, stability, and kindness for colleagues. His background as a police officer and ambulance driver shines through in everything he does. His clear passion and caring nature has had a profound impact on morale, where people feel heard, valued, and respected in his presence.

Kameo O'Hara



Kindness is at the heart of what colleagues shared in Kameo's nomination. She consistently shows what compassionate leadership looks like by creating a sense of calm and reassurance. She takes genuine time with every patient and models kindness in every interaction - whether with patients, colleagues, or other departments - they have shaped a team culture built on empathy, patience, and support.



Finalists - Putting People First

Sarah Whitwam



Sarah and the team showed kindness and compassion in supporting the first male same-sex couple to have a surrogate birth at CHFT, ensuring that every person involved felt respected, supported and included throughout the entire experience. Her approach was thoughtful, inclusive and deeply compassionate, ensuring that the parents and surrogate felt fully included and supported during a very significant moment in their lives.

Jason Bushby



Jason consistently demonstrates kindness and compassion in the way he leads and supports the people around him. He recently provided support to a colleague who experienced a sudden and significant health concern, resulting in a life changing condition. His compassion extended beyond practical workplace support. Colleagues felt connected, involved and able to contribute to supporting one of their own.

Surgical Outpatient Clinic Nurses



These nurses have regular vascular patients, like George, who sadly died. The team went to his funeral, and his wife wrote: "My dear girls, what can I say? My knees went when I saw you all. I can't thank you all enough for coming to church. You were all George's angels. I miss seeing you, but will never forget your attention."

Pauline Miles



Pauline and the team made a colleague's cancer treatment less scary and not as daunting as it could have been. From being diagnosed and the shock of needing chemotherapy prior to any surgery, Pauline was there from the start. Seeing people improve or have an improved outcome with surgery is one of her driving forces.

Carole Ellis



Carole's commitment to patients goes far beyond expectations. One example was when a patient had completely disengaged from their health needs and missed all scheduled appointments. Carole went out of her way to visit them at home explaining the importance of ongoing care in a calm and supportive way. As a result of this compassionate intervention, the patient is now attending clinic again.



Finalists - Work Together Get Results

Emma Vant



Emma Vant is an exceptional collaborative leader who brings teams together to deliver meaningful improvements in patient care. Leading two services with resilience and integrity, she has expanded capacity, strengthened partnerships and driven innovation. She champions staff wellbeing, fosters inclusive, open cultures and empowers teams to succeed.

Finance Team



The Finance Team has shown exceptional resilience and adaptability, maintaining high performance through significant challenges. By embracing collaboration and continuous improvement, they streamlined processes, strengthened systems, and supported one another to ensure continuity. Their focus on wellbeing, development and innovation has delivered strong financial outcomes, high staff engagement, and lasting improvements that benefit both colleagues and the wider organisation.

Laura Cooper



Laura Cooper is an exceptional leader who brings people together to deliver transformational change. Using strong collaboration and clear purpose, she drives innovation that improves patient care, access and outcomes across services. From advancing surgical innovation to redesigning pathways, she empowers teams, removes barriers and builds lasting partnerships, creating a culture of shared ownership, compassion and continuous improvement.

Deteriorating Patient Task and Finish Group



The Deteriorating Patient Task and Finish Group has delivered sustained, organisation-wide improvement in patient safety through exceptional collaboration and data-driven change. Transforming observations from below 50% to consistently above 80%, the team empowered colleagues, removed barriers and strengthened confidence. Their compassionate, inclusive approach has created lasting cultural change, ensuring deteriorating patients are recognised earlier and cared for more safely.

The Green Theatres Team



The Green Theatres Team has driven a powerful cultural shift, embedding sustainability into patient care through collaboration and innovation. By empowering staff and working across disciplines, they have reduced waste, improved clinical practice and strengthened engagement. Their inclusive, practical approach delivers safer, more efficient care while contributing to a greener NHS, creating lasting impact for patients, staff and the environment.



Finalists - One Culture of Care

Kayleigh Rufus



Kayleigh Rufus delivers exceptional, consistent care, going beyond her role to support colleagues and patients. She goes above and beyond to keep services safe, bringing calm, practical leadership under pressure. Her kindness, emotional intelligence and attention to detail strengthen teams. Through thoughtful gestures and unseen work, she creates a supportive culture where people feel valued, included and able to thrive.

Clair Woodrow



Clair Woodrow's impact goes beyond day-to-day support. She creates psychological safety, anticipates needs, and ensures people feel seen, heard and valued. Through compassionate leadership she invests in others, builds confidence and opens opportunities. Her integrity, empathy and commitment uplift teams, strengthen culture and change lives with a lasting, meaningful impact. Every day she leads with kindness and courage.

Matthew Williams



Matthew Williams leads accreditation work with commitment, integrity and care. He unites teams across the department around a shared purpose, navigating challenge with empathy and respect. By listening, building trust and maintaining focus on patient care, he drives real, sustained, meaningful improvement. His resilience, authenticity and collaborative approach strengthen culture, inspire colleagues and deliver lasting impact.

Radu Crisan



Radu Crisan shapes a culture of compassionate, patient centred care. He proactively reduces risk through education, de-escalation and visible leadership, improving safety for patients and colleagues. By coaching teams and building strong clinical relationships, he elevates standards, confidence and collaboration, ensuring security and supporting dignity, wellbeing and trust across the organisation every day.

Kacie Edwards



Kacie Edwards brings exceptional compassion, uplifting colleagues with genuine care, warmth and positivity. She supports others instinctively, creating a safe, inclusive environment where people feel valued and heard. In a high-pressure setting, she delivers patient centred care with kindness, dignity and skill, while strengthening team morale. Her thoughtful actions leave a lasting impact on colleagues, patients and families alike.

Thank you to our sponsors for
making the 2026 CHuFT
Awards happen

Calderdale Hospital SPC Ltd



Thank you to...

...everyone who put forward a nomination

This year we had another record breaking year, with 453 entries for our CHuFT Awards. The success of the awards are down to the time and effort of colleagues to put in a nomination. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated and thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate.

...our finalists

Thank you for coming to the Awards and a huge congratulations to all shortlisted nominees for their work.

...our judges

Who volunteered their time to help shortlist the finalists, and decide the final winners. You represent colleagues and services from across clinical and non-clinical services, and went above and beyond to do this above your day jobs.

...all our colleagues

You all do wonderful work every day, and without you and your commitment to our patients, and one another, our CHuFT Awards wouldn't be possible.