



# INNOVATION & BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

## CHA INNOVATION AND BEST PRACTICE AWARDS 2026 - CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Community Hospitals Association invites staff working in community hospitals and hubs to submit an entry for the 2026 [Innovation and Best Practice Awards](#). The awards are open to all members of community hospital teams - from senior managers and clinicians to healthcare support workers across all NHS bands. We warmly encourage everyone to share their innovative work and best practices.

### AWARD CATEGORIES

For 2026, we have five key award categories alongside our **President's Award**:

1. **Green Initiative** – Recognising sustainable practices and environmental improvements.
2. **Quality Improvement in Community Hospitals** – Showcasing projects that enhance patient safety, care and service outcomes.
3. **Integration and Continuity of Care** – Demonstrating effective collaboration across services to ensure seamless patient experiences.
4. **Person-Centred Care (No Decision About Me Without Me)** – Celebrating initiatives that actively involve patients in decisions about their care.
5. **Innovative Technology in Community Hospitals** – Highlighting the use of technology to improve care, efficiency and accessibility.

The **President's Award** is a special award chosen from all submissions

### SUBMISSION FORMATS

To make participation accessible and engaging, we welcome submissions in a variety of formats. Please choose one that best showcases your work:

- ◆ **Written Submission / Case Study**: Up to 500 words. Please include supporting photos or images to bring your work to life.
- ◆ **PowerPoint Presentation** - Maximum of 5 slides, plus an introduction slide. Max 500 words with photos or images
- ◆ **Poster** – A3 size, portrait or landscape, saved as PDF/JPEG. 300 words, with an additional 100 words for references and titles.
- ◆ **Video** - Maximum 3 minutes. Submitted via a link e.g. YouTube/Vimeo.
- ◆ **Infographic** – Create a visual summary of your project. A3 size, saved as PDF/JPEG.

### HOW TO ENTER

To submit your entry, follow these steps:

- ◆ Complete the [Application Form here](#) Please make sure you press 'submit'. You will receive an automated response confirming your entry.
- ◆ Once you have submitted the application form, please **email** your project to [info@communityhospitals.net](mailto:info@communityhospitals.net) Thank you.
- ◆ Ensure that all entries are received by **Monday 5th October**. Unfortunately, late submissions cannot be accepted.



## GUIDANCE FOR ENTRANTS & JUDGING CRITERIA

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to share your great work. When preparing your submission, please consider the following criteria:

- ◆ **Why was the change needed?** Explain what prompted your initiative and the difference it has made.
- ◆ **How have patients or staff benefited?** Share specific ways your project has improved care, experiences, or working practices.
- ◆ **What has been the wider impact?** Highlight any benefits for your organisation or the healthcare system, such as better efficiency, cost savings or stronger partnerships.
- ◆ **What have you learned?** Tell us about key insights, challenges overcome and lessons that could help others.
- ◆ **Could others use this idea?** Show how your initiative could be adapted in other community hospitals.
- ◆ **Is your submission clear and engaging?** Present your information in a well-structured and visually clear way. Using photos, data or testimonials can help bring your story to life.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2026 AWARDS

**Opening Date:** 7th May 2026

**Deadline for Submissions:** Monday 5th October 2026

**Shortlisting:** 12th October 2026

**Shortlisted Entries Presentations:** w/c 2nd November 2026

(Virtual presentations via MS Teams or Zoom)

If your submission is shortlisted, you will need to be available and willing to present a 10-minute verbal presentation via MS Teams —so please ensure you can meet this entry requirement before applying.

**Winner Announcement:** December 2026

## JUDGING PANEL

The 2026 panel will be announced shortly. To find out more, visit [www.communityhospitals.org.uk](http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk)

## AWARDS, RECOGNITION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINNERS

Winners will be invited to present their work as part of the CHA Special Interest Group programme in 2027. These monthly webinars celebrate innovation and best practice in community hospitals and hubs, and are an excellent opportunity for sharing learning across the network.

All winning entries will be shared on our website and social media platforms, and we invite winners to engage with our social media campaign after the awards to help inspire others across the community.

We hope to celebrate winners further at a future National Conference and will be in touch with more details in due course.



Please contact [info@communityhospitals.net](mailto:info@communityhospitals.net) if you have any questions about any of this information.