

PRESS RELEASE

16th September 2011

Trust staff awarded for making a difference to patients' lives

Patients and colleagues at The Dudley Group of Hospitals have praised hospital and community staff for their hard work and dedication at an awards ceremony hosted by Heart FM Breakfast Show presenter Ed James.

More than 200 frontline and back office staff gathered at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill last night (Thursday) for their annual 'Committed to Excellence' event.

The awards, sponsored by the Trust's business partners, are now in their fifth year and recognise what staff do, day in day out, to give patients the very best care.

Chief Executive Paula Clark paid tribute to everyone who was nominated by colleagues, patients and their families for making a real difference to their lives.

"Tonight is your night, whether you work on the front line or beaver away in the background," she told staff.

"These awards are our way of showing how much we appreciate what you do, day in day out, for our patients and their families."

'Committed to Excellence' rewards outstanding performance and nominations are made in five categories – Excellence in Patient Care, Team Excellence, Unsung Hero – Non-Clinical, Unsung Hero – Clinical and Business Excellence.

The Alf Edwards Award, named after the Trust's former chairman, was presented to Consultant Cardiologist Jane Flint to acknowledge her outstanding achievement.

Chairman John Edwards praised Dr Flint, who retired from the Trust in June after 23 years' service, for her distinguished career and called her a "pioneer in her field".

Jane, who received a standing ovation, said, "I am very excited to be given this award. I didn't have a clue that I was going to receive it. I am speechless."

The first place winner of 'Team Excellence' went to Sandringham Ward for high quality care and for creating a safe and friendly environment for patients waiting for packages of care before they can be discharged from the unit.

Lead nurse Katie Pugh was thrilled by the award.

"It's fantastic to have won. It's been a great night and we've enjoyed every minute of it."

Amy Virdee, clinical support worker on C7, picked up first place in the 'Excellence in Patient Care' category.

"I am so elated to receive this award," said Amy. "I am so surprised because I really didn't expect to win."

First place for 'Unsung Hero Non Clinical' went to C3 ward clerk Sarah Bedworth.

"I'm shocked to get first place. I was up against a great bunch of people and I feel overwhelmed but very proud."

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Winners

Unsung Hero – Clinical – Christine Morgan, Dietitian, Dietetic Department

Unsung Hero – Non Clinical – Sarah Bedworth, Ward Clerk, C3

Business Excellence – Think Glucose, Diabetes and Endocrinology

Team Excellence – Sandringham Ward

Excellence in Patient Care – Amy Virdee, Clinical Support Worker, Ward C7

The Alf Edwards Award for outstanding achievement, Dr Jane Flint, Consultant Cardiologist.

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