

CISS Newsflash – The Champs Edition

The first **Caring, Helpful Amazing People (CHAMPs)** Awards, took place on Thursday 23 November 2023 on Carers Rights Day, recognising unpaid carers for their hard work, kindness and resilience, the awards also recognised the professionals and services that offer help to unpaid carers in Hull.

Julie Bahn, Service Manager, Carers Information and Support Service, CHCP CIC who organised and hosted the event on behalf of Hull's Carers Partnership Board said: "Working on the CHAMPs awards has been an absolute privilege.

A discussion within the Carers Partnership Board meeting and a suggestion from one of the members who has lived experience as a carer led to collaboration and consultation with carers in Hull, resulting in an award ceremony named by carers themselves."

Julie advised "We know that often it is difficult for people to recognise themselves as a carer as the support they give to a loved one increases over time. However, by shining a light on carers in Hull and celebrating the amazing contributions they make, we hope to help others to identify as a carer and access support too.

The **CHAMPs** took place in the prestigious banqueting suite of the Guildhall where 100 invited guests enjoyed a sparkling reception and an afternoon tea,

Director of Adult Social Services, Tracy Meyerhoff provided the opening words to start the award ceremony which recognised carers from six nominated categories and a final award to the Carer of the Year.

Adult Unpaid Carer Award



We received nominations for adult unpaid carer who provide care for someone who couldn't manage without their help and support, putting the needs of the cared for first and themselves last. We received lots of nominations from family members and friends who felt their person deserved to be recognised for the dedication and commitment to their loved one.

Adult unpaid Carer winner - Pam Kelsey - Pam was nominated by Beryl. Pam takes care of her son and parents. She doesn't hesitate to help her friends when needed. When thinking of how caring Pam is, I am really in awe. Caring for one person can be hard work, but 3 - I just don't know how she does it.



Parent Carer Award



This category we received nominations for those carers who are providing a parenting role, caring for a member of their family who are under the age of 18 and have additional needs, a disability, or a long-term illness to highlight the fantastic role they provide.

Parent Carer winner: Katie Middleton - Katie has been nominated by both Graham and Diana. Katie is the most selfless person on this earth, I really don't know how she copes with everything, she is superhuman! She must have an in-built sense as she always knows when she is needed and nothing is ever too much trouble, I don't know where we'd be without her. She has a heart of pure gold!

Sandwich Carer Award



In this category we asked for nominations for individuals who are who are everything to everyone, balancing caring and work, family commitments and really are the filling in the sandwich.

Sandwich carer winner - Joanne Russell - Joanne was nominated by Michaela. Finding the right words is no easy task, she means the world to us. Working every day, she also looks after her family, her uncle and me, her cousin. Nothing is ever too much. She is the most amazing lady and I think she thoroughly deserves this recognition, with her own life struggles she will always put everyone else first.

Paid Carer Award



Nominations in this category highlighted how these individuals provide a caring role that goes beyond their job title, delivering care that not only supports the person they are caring for but also supports the unpaid carer who is also providing much needed care.

Paid carer winner - Gail Ozkan - Gail was nominated by Gillian. Gail goes beyond what a carer would do making my life easier with support and care, supporting me with daily shopping, appointments, I don't know what my life would be without her. I just feel that if they were more people like Gail in the world it would be a much better place.

Community Carers Champion Award



We received nominations for those within our communities who are doing good deeds, using their own time and skills to help others who face difficulties due to their caring responsibilities.

Community Carers Champion winner - Michelle Ditchburn

Michelle has been nominated by Carol. Michelle is constantly fundraising for local charities and community groups. Raising awareness about the importance of carers and caring roles, giving her a sense of purpose and pride. She has struggled with her own losses and ill health but always supports others with her unwavering determination.

Young Carer Award



We asked for nominations for carers under the age of 18 whose family couldn't manage without their help. These young people are balancing caring, schoolwork and friendship whilst providing much needed support to a sibling or parent.

Young Carer winner - Baiylan David Parker Ellerington

Baiylan is 9 years old and has been nominated by Leah-Jayne. Baiylan is the life and soul of his household. He is always there to help every minute of the day without a grumble. He continuously puts Reuben, his younger brother, before himself as they are the best of friends, teaching him numbers and also how to play his Xbox whilst he's sat on his knee. He is selfless, endearing and an inspiration to all that know him.

Carer of the Year Award



The Carer of the Year awards not only recognises the dedication and devotion of those who provide a caring role for their loved one but celebrates it too. The person who is winner of this award was picked by the panel from all the nominations received in this year's CHAMPS categories.

Carer of the Year winner - Sophie Feve - The carer of the year is a young woman, who from the age of 20 has been working tirelessly to provide for her younger sisters, by taking on the full-time role of being a parent; giving them the safety, sanctuary and a stable upbringing that they need. By keeping them together as a family, taking on not only the daily tasks but making sure all the while that

fun stays in their lives. Putting her life on hold and stepping up to the role that many people would have walked away from, whilst learning to deal with issues that arise. She hopes that one day when her younger sister starts full time education she can begin her own career in SEND education. Sophie, a natural caring person, is an inspiration to us all.

The CHAMPs closing words were provided by Gina Walker, Parent Carer for 25 years co-organiser for the ceremony.

“A carer is an unassuming individual who rarely complains about what they are going through themselves but will fight tooth and nail for the person they care for. They give the illusion it’s not hard and they can cope – we are our own worst enemies. The CHAMPs for me is giving carers the recognition they would never ask for but definitely deserve.”

