Bright Ideas in Health Awards

Category: Innovation Champion

This category is open to organisations in the North East and North Cumbria

Innovation is essential to tackling the evolving challenges facing healthcare, but it's true impact depends on the people and organisations that create a culture for, and champion, innovation.

This award celebrates those who go above and beyond to drive meaningful change, recognising individuals or teams who not only generate new ideas but actively create the conditions for them to flourish.

This category highlights leaders who foster a strong culture of innovation, where ideas are encouraged, rapidly tested, and successfully adopted across organisations and systems.

Whether through inspiring others, building partnerships, or embedding new ways of working, these champions play a vital role in ensuring innovation leads to real-world impact.

By nurturing environments where innovation can thrive, they help accelerate the spread of effective solutions, improve care delivery and benefit patients and communities.

This award honours those who turn ambition into action and make innovation a sustained and shared success.

Successful entries should provide evidence of how they have accelerated the adoption of innovation, supported others to develop ideas, influenced organisational culture and delivered measurable improvements for patients, staff or services.

Eligibility:

Open to individuals, teams or organisations working within the NHS, healthcare, academia, local government, voluntary and community sector organisations, or industry partners supporting health and care innovation.

The entry questions for the **Innovation Champion** category are:

1. Who is the nominee and what role have they played in championing innovation?
2. How have they created the culture and conditions for innovation to flourish?
3. What specific innovations, programmes or improvements have they supported?
4. How have they influenced organisational culture, behaviours or ways of working?
5. How have they supported others to develop, test, adopt or spread ideas?
6. What measurable impact has their leadership or advocacy achieved?
7. How have they built partnerships or removed barriers to innovation?

8. Why do they stand out as an innovation champion?

Specific judging focus:

- Leadership and influence
- Contribution to innovation culture
- Support or encouragement for others
- Evidence of impact
- Ability to inspire adoption and spread

Entries will be assessed on the following:
Innovation: originality of the idea
Value: impact of the initiative on patient care and/or service effectiveness
Patient focus: evidence that patient/service user need was central to the work
Collaboration: evidence of the involvement of other professionals, services and/or patients in the project
Clinical effectiveness: data demonstrating how this initiative drives clinical enhancements
Leadership: evidence of entrants championing their innovation in their organisation or more widely
Adaptability: ideas that could be adapted for use elsewhere in entrants' organisations or other organisations
Sustainability: initiatives that can be embedded within organisations to operate without the input of the people who developed them

The deadline for entries is 27 November 2026

For further information and to enter please visit: https://brightideasinhealth.org.uk/

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