Bright Ideas in Health Awards

Category: Sustainability, Efficiency and Productivity Award

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

This award celebrates teams, services or partnerships that have improved sustainability, productivity and efficiency while enhancing patient care and supporting the NHS's three strategic shifts: from hospital to community, from analogue to digital, and from treatment to prevention.

We are looking for initiatives that have transformed the way care is delivered by making the best use of resources, reducing waste, improving environmental sustainability and increasing productivity without compromising quality or patient experience.

Entries should demonstrate how they have:

- Delivered measurable improvements in productivity, efficiency or value for money.
- Reduced environmental impact through more sustainable ways of working, contributing to the NHS's net zero ambitions.
- Shifted care closer to home, reducing unnecessary hospital activity and supporting community-based care.
- Used digital technologies to streamline processes, improve decision-making or enhance patient and staff experience.
- Prevented avoidable demand through early intervention, proactive care or service redesign.
- Demonstrated measurable improvements in outcomes for patients, staff, the organisation or the wider health and care system.

Successful entries will provide clear evidence of impact, scalability and collaboration, showing how their approach can be adopted across the NHS to deliver sustainable, productive and high-quality care for the future.

Judges will be looking for initiatives that demonstrate improvements in productivity and efficiency alongside measurable benefits for patients, staff or population health.

Eligibility:
Open to NHS organisations, primary care providers, Integrated Care Systems, local authorities and partner organisations that can demonstrate measurable improvements in sustainability, productivity, efficiency or service transformation.
The entry questions for the **Sustainability, Efficiency and Productivity Award** are:

1. What sustainability, productivity or efficiency challenge does your initiative address?
2. How has the initiative changed the way care or services are delivered?

3. What measurable improvements have been achieved in productivity, efficiency or value for money?
4. How has the initiative reduced waste, environmental impact or unnecessary activity?
5. How has quality, safety or patient experience been maintained or improved?
6. How does the initiative support care closer to home, digital transformation or prevention?
7. What benefits have been achieved for patients, staff, organisations or the wider system?
8. How could this approach be scaled, replicated or sustained?

Specific judging focus:

- Measurable productivity or efficiency improvement
- Environmental or sustainability benefit
- Improved outcomes without compromising quality
- Alignment with NHS strategic shifts
- Scalability and system value

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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