

HSCQI Award Winners 2020 Announced

28/06/21

HSCQI congratulated all the teams who were shortlisted and announced the winners of the prestigious HSCQI Quality Improvement Awards 2020 in a virtual celebration event held on 24 June.

Dr Aideen Keaney, Director of HSCQI who recently had the opportunity to meet with the award winning teams commented:

“The response to the HSCQI Awards has been outstanding. Applications were received from across many parts of our Health and Social Care system. The judging panel commended the high standard of entry from each of the shortlisted teams, many of whom described improvement initiatives that they had led on, some even doing so during the Covid-19 pandemic. The improvement awards recognise the dedication and passion of all of the teams and demonstrate how using a quality improvement (QI) approach to these initiatives has resulted in improvements in patient care. Many of the shortlisted teams were able to evidence these improvements with data and measures.

These improvement initiatives also illustrate how staff from across our Health and Social Care system are now applying their QI expertise to their work and that this is occurring across many parts of the system. I want to thank everyone who entered. All the finalists and all the category winners deserve our collective congratulations for the success of their improvement initiatives.”

In the **Integrating Care across boundaries** category, teams demonstrated involvement of service users and carers, working across boundaries and developing multidisciplinary pathways in their QI projects, not to mention their passion for QI which was evident throughout. **HSCQI is delighted to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the category winner ‘NEMO Delayed Discharge Process’.**

This QI Project was developed by a team from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust lead by Mary O’Brien, who set out to develop new pathways of care to reduce the number of delayed discharges in the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre (AMHIC). The team developed an innovative pathway for new community placements at Woodstock Bank and standardised the pathways for patients at high risk. This ultimately has improved patient experience.

Commenting on receiving the award, Mary O’Brien said,

“On behalf of AMHIC and Woodstock Bank (step down facility from AMHIC) we are ecstatic to have won the award in the category of Integrating Care across Boundaries. Our project was patient/service user and carer focused and was about improving flow in, through and out of acute psychiatric inpatient care as we recognise that the patient / Service user lives in community but only goes to inpatient care for treatment so it is crucial that they are not delayed in their discharge. We really have the QI bug and are very proud to have won this award and look forward to putting our next projects forward next time round.”

This pioneering work from the Belfast Trust team is still on-going with sustainability and spread at the forefront. The team are working relentlessly to ensure the changes implemented thus far are sustained while the project is being scaled across Northern Ireland by the Health and Social Care Board.

HSCQI plans to highlight the award winning entries throughout HSC over the next few months to help encourage learning and the spread of the quality improvement initiatives. Further details on the awards

and other QI information can be found on the HSCQI website. [Quality Improvement & Innovation – Sharing best practice across Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland \(hscni.net\)](#)

Please follow @HSCQI on Twitter also to keep connected with QI activity across the region.

For further info please contact:

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