

# Press release

Working together for  
outstanding care

We are delighted to announce that we have been shortlisted in the health sector's most prestigious awards programme.

The HSJ (Health Service Journal) Awards are one of the largest celebrations of healthcare excellence in the world, recognising and promoting the finest achievements in the NHS. The Health and Care Trust, Worcestershire's main provider of community and mental health services, is up for the 'Creating a Supportive Staff Culture' award.

The Trust has been shortlisted in recognition of a project it runs with both Worcester and Coventry Universities to offer placement opportunities to student Occupational Therapists. The project was developed by Jo Gaffney, Professional Lead for Allied Health Professionals, and Kate Leese, Staff Health and Wellbeing Lead. The students are supported to develop their understanding of wellbeing in the workplace and have launched schemes and initiatives to support Trust staff to improve their health, morale and engagement at work.

The students set-up a range of activities, including a couch to 5k group, walking clubs and wellbeing noticeboards with the overall aim to create a happier, healthier workforce providing quality care and role-modelling to patients accessing services.

**Jo Gaffney, our Professional Lead for Allied Health Professionals, said:** *"The OT placement project has proved a great success from both perspective of the students who have benefited from the experience of applying their learning in a healthcare setting, and from the Trust's staff who responded with real enthusiasm to the project, with many joining in the running or walking clubs which the students set up."*

Winners will be revealed at a ceremony on 21 November

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