



The  
**NHS Wales**  
**Awards**  
2026

# Entry Guide

## **NHS Wales Awards:**

Celebrating excellence in driving improvements and transforming services



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Perfformiad  
a Gwella  
Performance  
and Improvement

[nhsawards.wales](https://nhsawards.wales)

# Contents



Introduction	3
Categories	4
Who can enter and key dates	6
Entry questions	7
How to enter and top tips	10
Remember and contact us	11



# Welcome to the NHS Wales Awards Entry Guide

The NHS Wales Awards are back for 2026. Now heading into its eighteenth year, the awards continue to showcase teams driving improvements in quality, safety and performance to transform services, experiences and outcomes for people in Wales.

## Why enter?

Your ideas, hard work and commitment for change can make a real difference to the people in your care, your organisation and the wider health and care system. This is your opportunity to shine a spotlight on the quality improvement work you and your team have led. Enter the awards to:

- share your success and raise the profile of your improvement work,
- spread your learning and improvements,
- be part of a community of learning and improvement across Wales.

## What to expect:

Once you have submitted your entry, our panel of judges, made up of colleagues from NHS Wales Performance and Improvement, alongside external experts will review all entries against a set of criteria to create a shortlist.

**For the first time ever, we're excited to share that winners will be chosen by peers across NHS Wales.**

Shortlisted teams will be notified and given **two weeks** to complete a well-presented poster to showcase their project. A template and supporting guidance will be provided to help shape posters. Posters will be displayed online, and colleagues across NHS Wales will be invited to vote for the category winners.

To progress to the voting stage, posters must be submitted within the specified timeframe. Any entry that does not provide a poster by the deadline will unfortunately be considered void. In the event of a tie in votes, the winner will be determined by the shortlisting judging panel for that category.

The Outstanding Contribution to Healthcare Improvement Award winner will be selected from the 13 category winners.

All shortlisted teams will be invited to an evening awards ceremony in Cardiff in November, where the winners will be announced and trophies and certificates presented. Further details about the ceremony will be provided soon.



# NHS Wales Awards 2026 categories

There are 13 categories to choose from, aligned with the [Duty of Quality and Health and Care Quality Standards 2023](#).

## 1 NHS Wales Effective Care Award

Those entering this category have shown a clear positive effect on making the best clinical decisions, either in one pathway or across multiple pathways.

## 2 NHS Wales Efficient Care Award

Those entering this category have demonstrated efficient and effective use of resources to provide value for both the service and the patients.

## 3 NHS Wales Equitable Care Award

Those entering this category have made changes that show improvements in access to services for people with any specific protected or personal characteristics or which recognise our active offer for providing a service in Welsh without someone having to ask for it.

## 4 NHS Wales Information Award

Those entering this category have demonstrated use of data and knowledge to deliver improvements, measure impact and sustain outcomes.

## 5 NHS Wales Leadership Award

Those entering this category have a leader or leadership team who have used their knowledge, skill and commitment to contribute to the project's success.

## 6 NHS Wales Learning & Research Award

Those entering this category have demonstrated a commitment to linking learning and improvement activities with strategic visions for organisation-wide transformation.



7

### **NHS Wales Person-Centred Care Award**

Those entering this category have made improvements to ensure patients are at the centre of decisions, services, and their own care. Projects in this category may have addressed diverse needs, which could include ensuring the Welsh language is as visible as the English language and that people who require a service in Welsh do not have to ask for it.

8

### **NHS Wales Safe Care Award**

Those entering this category have made measurable improvements to a system or process to maximise service reliability, actively manage risks and embed learning.

9

### **NHS Wales Team Culture Award**

Those entering this category have shown that the team is committed to providing safe, high-quality care by fostering a culture of teamwork – within the team, in interactions with other teams and with the people they serve.

10

### **NHS Wales Timely Care Award**

Those entering this category have made measurable improvements in the delivery of care to the right people, in the right place and at the right time.

11

### **NHS Wales Whole Systems Approach Award**

Those entering this category have shown the ability to work beyond organisational and sector boundaries to achieve results that meet changing service needs, wellbeing goals, and the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

12

### **NHS Wales Workforce Sustainability Award**

Those entering this category have addressed workforce challenges actively and made changes that provide lasting solutions for delivering safe, high-quality care.

13

### **NHS Wales Consistent High Quality Performance Award**

Those entering this category can demonstrate evidence of consistent high quality in the performance of their team, in terms of meeting targets and achieving the Duty of Quality and Health and Care Quality Standards 2023 over the last 12 months and beyond.



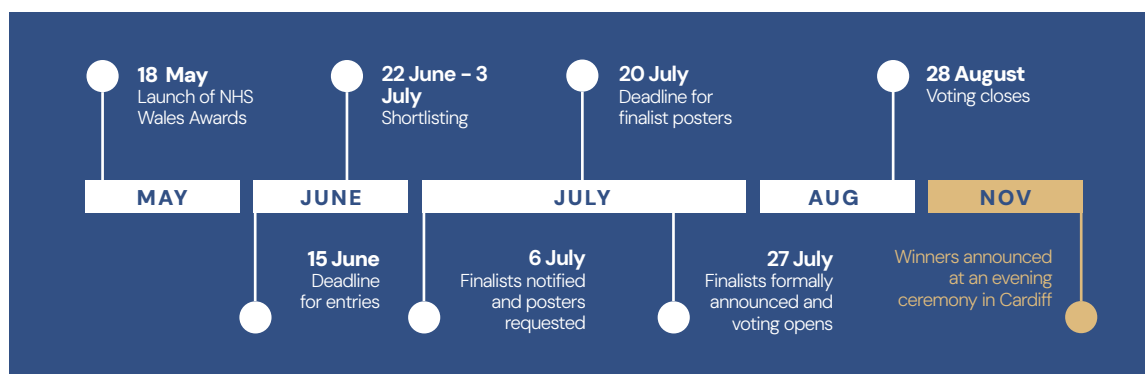
# Who can enter?

We invite anyone working across NHS Wales to submit an entry including clinical and non-clinical staff and students.

Where an entry is in partnership with public or voluntary sector organisations, the NHS partner should submit the entry.

**As the hosting body of NHS Wales Awards, we are unable to accept applications from colleagues working within NHS Wales Performance and Improvement. Any submissions received will not progress to shortlisting. Any teams being supported by NHS Wales Performance and Improvement are however welcome to apply.**

## Key dates



# Entry questions

The total word limit for an entry is **1750 words**. Each question has an allocation of 250 words and your title and aim description are not included in the overall word count.

Supporting evidence (data, graphs, images etc.) can be attached as required.

## 1 Title

(15 words – not included in overall word count)

Please provide a title to effectively showcase your project within 15 words or under. **Remember, your title will be the first thing people see.** Use clear and engaging language and avoid acronyms.

If shortlisted, your title will be displayed publicly on posters, the awards website and announced at the ceremony. We may be required to shorten and edit your title further for display.

### Examples:

Bridging the Gap: Tackling Digital Exclusion in Maternity Care through the Maternity Databank

Data Unlocked: Real-Time Insights Empowering Every Nurse

## 2

### What was the aim of the improvement project?

(20 words – not included in overall word count).

#### Judges will be looking for:

- what you were trying to accomplish in 20 words or less,
- a numeric target measure,
- and a timeframe for achievement.

## 3

### How did you know an improvement as needed?

(250 words)

#### Judges will be looking for:

- a description of the problem and factors which meant a change was necessary,
- quantitative and/or qualitative evidence of the problem being addressed (baseline data).

4

## What did you decide to do and who did you involve?

(250 words)

### Judges will be looking for:

- a description of how the project was structured,
  - an explanation of any method or framework used,
  - and detail of any stakeholder engagement undertaken.
- 

5

## What changes did you test and what results did you get?

(250 words)

### Judges will be looking for:

- evidence of testing a change and actions taken,
  - use of data to measure results over time,
  - and evidence of learning through doing.
- 

6

## What was the outcome of all the changes you made?

(250 words)

### Judges will be looking for:

- a description of current/final outcomes,
  - qualitative and/or quantitative evidence of changes made,
  - and the impact of the change on patients, colleagues, and the wider system.
- 

7

## What did you learn? (250 words)

### Judges will be looking for:

- a description of the change and learning from the project,
- a description of what the team would do differently,
- a description of what evaluation processes have been undertaken,
- and a reflection on whether you achieved the original aim.

8

### **What will you do next?** (250 words)

#### **Judges will be looking for:**

- a description of any planned further developments,
  - a reflection on how learnings will be used,
  - suggestions for how this project could be scaled nationally (or wider), and evidence if already done so.
- 

9

### **Why does your project deserve to win the category you have entered?** (250 words)

#### **Judges will be looking for:**

- a description of any planned further developments,
- a reflection on how learnings will be used,
- suggestions for how this project could be scaled nationally (or wider), and evidence if already done so.

# How to enter

Enter online via the NHS Wales Awards submission platform:

[nhs.wales/awardsplatform.com](https://nhs.wales/awardsplatform.com)

Complete all necessary fields, add any applicable co-authors and attach any supporting evidence (data, graphs, images etc) before submitting your entry. **Please ensure you have approval from your Executive Director before submitting.**

**Please make sure you have agreement from any co-authors before submitting the entry.**

The same project cannot be entered into multiple categories. If your project fits within several categories, we advise applicants to select the category that best reflects the predominant improvement within the project. It is up to you to decide which category is most suitable.



## Top tips for submitting your entries

- **Consider what stage of your improvement project you are at.** If you are still in the early stages of your project, you may want to wait for a future NHS Wales Awards so you can really showcase the impact of your improvement work. Remember we want to see your project's data and findings.
- **Reach out for assistance.** Get in touch with your Improvement Team or Lead for support with your application. You can also email the NHS Wales Awards Team at [NHSWalesAwards@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:NHSWalesAwards@wales.nhs.uk) with any questions.
- **Provide clear and concise answers.** This will help you to stay on track and keep judges engaged. If you are selected as a finalist, these answers will also help shape your poster.
- **Take note of the submission deadline.** Discuss and agree timelines within your team to allow plenty of time for everyone to contribute. Ensure you leave sufficient time for your Executive Director to sign and agree your submission before entering.



## Remember

- All entries must be received by **5:00pm, Monday 15 June 2026**.
- The **total word limit for entries is 1750 words** with sections divided into 250 words each. Your title and aim are not included in the overall word count.
- Supporting evidence such as data, photos, graphs etc can be uploaded directly onto the application platform, as required.
- Entries can be submitted in Welsh or English.
- Finalists will be asked to produce a poster summarising their entries using the template and guidance provided. These will be published on the NHS Wales Awards website and used during the voting period. Posters will also be on display at the evening awards ceremony.
- Your entry represents and reflects you, your colleagues and your organisation.
- Your entry will be read by other professionals from different backgrounds not just healthcare. Please avoid acronyms and use plain English where possible.
- If you are selected as a finalist or winner, the NHS Wales Awards team may be in touch after the awards to see how your work is developing and to explore further opportunities to showcase your project.



## Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact: [NHSWalesAwards@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:NHSWalesAwards@wales.nhs.uk)

**Follow the NHS Wales Awards on social media to stay up to date:**

Facebook: [NHS Wales Awards](#)

Instagram: [@nhs\\_wales\\_awards](#)

Visit the NHS Wales Awards website: [nhsawards.wales](https://nhsawards.wales)

