



COMMUNITY INSPIRATION AWARDS

25 SEPTEMBER 2026



AWARDS CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS BROCHURE



WELCOME
&

INTRODUCTION

MOZMUN HUSSA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MUNICIPALITY

Welcome!

The Community Inspiration Awards is a proud celebration of the remarkable achievements of individuals, public sector workers, businesses, and voluntary organisations that made a significant and lasting impact on the lives of others. This post event brochure provides a highlight of the award ceremony held on 25 September 2026 with the list of award presenters, finalists and winner.

This year, as with previous years, we were overwhelmed by the volume and quality of nominations. Hundreds of submissions poured in, each one shining a spotlight on individuals and organisations whose dedication went above and beyond. From acts of kindness and bravery to initiatives that tackled some of the most pressing social issues of our time, the stories behind each nominee were nothing short of inspirational. The selection process, as always, was immensely challenging. Every finalist was deserving of recognition and celebration, making it difficult to choose from such a wealth of talent and passion.

In total, we had 21 award categories, each representing a different facet of community life. These awards reflected the breadth of contributions that fuelled positive change. For each category, from the hundreds of nominations received this year, we had 8 finalists shortlisted for each award category, bringing us to a total of just under 170 exceptional finalists who demonstrated that meaningful change is possible when we work together with a shared vision.

I would like to thank all our award presenters, sponsors for their unwavering support and our staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this evening to life. A special thank you goes to those who took the time to nominate these remarkable individuals and a big congratulations once again to all the finalists, runner up and winners.



Chief Executive | Community Foundation

HOST



NOZMUL HUSSAIN

Chief Executive
Community Foundation

AWARD PRESENTERS



SIMON FOSTER

West Midlands
Police & Crime
Commissioner



RICHARD KIRBY

Chief Executive
Birmingham Community
Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

AWARD PRESENTERS



PAUL FAULKNER

Deputy Lieutenant
of the
West Midlands Lieutenancy



CARMEN WATSON

High Sheriff of the WM
at the
High Sheriff Association



SEAN KYNE

Deputy Chief Crown
Prosecutor of the
The Crown Prosecution
Service



SHOKAT LAL

Chief Executive
Sandwell City Council

AWARD PRESENTERS



ALAN ALLMARK

Area Commander
West Midlands Fire Service



PAUL DROVER

Assistant Chief Constable
West Midlands Police



MIKE HOPKINS MBE

Principal of
South & City College
Birmingham



PAT CARVALHO

Principal and Chief
Executive Officer
Birmingham MET

AWARD PRESENTERS



REBECCA TIGUE

Sixth Form Principal
of the University College
Birmingham



**VENERABLE JENNY
TOMLINSON**

Archdeacon of Birmingham
Church of England



AYOUB KHAN

MP for Birmingham
Perry Barr



TAHIR ALI

MP for Birmingham
Hall Green

AWARD PRESENTERS



CLLR

OBAIDA AHMED

Wolverhampton City Council
Member
Health, Wellbeing &
Communities



CLLR

KAMEL HAWWASH

BCC Cabinet Member
Children, Young People &
Families



CLLR

BABER BAZ

BCC Cabinet Member
Housing & Homelessness



CLLR

CHRIS GARGHAN

BCC Cabinet Member
Finance

COMMUNITY AWARD CATEGORY



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS



GULAM CHOUDHURY

Walsall Bangladeshi Progressive Society



VALERIE BEALE

HACRO



SUSAN EVANS

Manor Farm Community Association



ANDREW CLARKE

Cornerstone Opportunities CIC

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS



LEROY BROWN
Sharky's Boxing Gym



CHRISTABELL AMOAKOH
The Highlife Centre



KAREN HENRY
FastAid Birmingham & Solihull



SAJDA BUTT
SB Training and Consultancy

2ND RUNNER UP



SUSAN EVANS

Manor Farm
Community Association

For nearly 30 years of dedicated service to Manor Farm CA, from volunteer to Charity Manager, leading Walsall's pandemic response, advising government representatives on access to services, and making a lasting difference across communities in the Black Country.

Award Presented by:
Simon Foster

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

1ST RUNNER UP



ANDREW CLARKE

Cornerstone Opportunities CIC

For founding Cornerstone Opportunities CIC in 2014 and transforming support for people facing complex needs, homelessness and re-entry from prison across South Wales, helping hundreds secure housing, rebuild their lives and overcome crisis through inclusive, person-centred leadership.

Award Presented by:

Simon Foster

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

WINNER



SAJDA BUTT

SB Training and Consultancy

For more than 15 years of strengthening communities through mental health training, service development, research and engagement, empowering professionals, volunteers, women and community leaders, connecting grassroots communities with formal services, and creating lasting positive change across Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond.

Award Presented by:

Lucy Caldicott

Chief of Staff to the Mayor of West Midlands

DUTY TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD FINALISTS



ALANA CLARKE

The Hothouse Community Church



ASAD FAZIL MBE

Al-Huraya



SALLY DE PEE

Little Cherubs Community



ISABEL DA SILVA

Isa.Connect CIC

DUTY TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD FINALISTS



DEBORAH BONNIQUE

Handsworth Association of
Schools



VELMA MCDONALD

Mc V's



ALI AKLAKUL ISLAM



MOHAMMED ZAFRAN BEM

Community Plaza CIC

2ND RUNNER UP



ASAD FAZIL MBE

Al-Hurraya

For founding Al-Hurraya in 2014 and expanding culturally responsive mental health, counselling and addiction services for marginalised communities, building partnerships with the NHS and local authorities, and breaking down barriers to care for asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable families.

Award Presented by:
Paul Faulkner
Deputy Lieutenant of the
West Midlands Lieutenancy

1ST RUNNER UP



ISABEL DA SILVA

Isa.Connect CIC

For founding a community network that provides women with a safe space for personal development and mutual growth, organising regular events that foster connection, build resilience and empower women, and providing vital community support through selfless dedication and nurturing leadership.

Award Presented by:
Paul Faulkner
Deputy Lieutenant of the
West Midlands Lieutenancy

WINNER



SALLY DE PEE

Little Cherubs Community

For founding Little Cherubs Children's Clothing Bank during the COVID-19 pandemic and growing it into a vital service supporting over 1,800 children, providing free clothing, shoes, baby equipment and Christmas gifts while offering families facing hardship compassionate, non-judgmental support and dignity.

Award Presented by:
Paul Faulkner
Deputy Lieutenant of the
West Midlands Lieutenancy

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER AWARD FINALISTS



LISA ALI
Augmented CIC



THEO GAVRIELIDES
Restorative Justice for All
International Institute



RICHARD CAMPBELL
BLESST CIC



LOUISE PRASHAD

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER AWARD FINALISTS



THRIVE AT FIVE



AILEEN BURTON



AMINAH KHANOM

Reset Communities for Refugees



HELEN HIBBERD

Birch Network

2ND RUNNER UP



LOUISE PRASHAD

For a decade of raising awareness of organ donation and maternity safety, delivering over 600 educational talks across the UK, raising more than £350,000 for transplant services, and championing inclusive sport through Special Olympics Great Britain, inspiring hope and saving lives.

Award Presented by:
Venerable Jenny Tomlison
Archdeacon of Birmingham
The Church of England

1ST RUNNER UP



RICHARD CAMPBELL
BLESST CIC

For over a decade of empowering young people and strengthening communities through BLESST CIC, creating leadership and paid work opportunities, mentoring vulnerable youth including looked-after children, and building safe, supportive spaces and partnerships that help young people shape positive futures.

Award Presented by:
Venerable Jenny Tomlison
Archdeacon of Birmingham
The Church of England

WINNER



LISA ALI

Augmented CIC

For establishing a community centre supporting women in Birmingham's underserved communities, providing free fitness and wellness programmes, championing safety and wellbeing, and empowering women to overcome barriers while bringing diverse communities together.

Award Presented by:
Venerable Jenny Tomlison
Archdeacon of Birmingham
The Church of England

ENVIRONMENT CHAMPION AWARD FINALISTS



ANTROBUS ROAD
RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP



RYAN HULANCE
We Can CIC



BIRGIT KEHRER
ChangeKitchen CIC



LMRCA RAILWAY CLUB

ENVIRONMENT CHAMPION AWARD FINALISTS



KATE ELLIS
One Project Macclesfield



SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM



AMINAH MEHRBAN
Count Me In



KENNY RAYBOULD-WILDING
Stoke in Bloom

2ND RUNNER UP



AMINAH MEHRBAN

Count me In

For leading the “Greener, Safer Alum Rock” initiative since October 2025, empowering Street Champions, bringing residents and agencies together, improving community safety, tackling fly-tipping and creating a cleaner, safer and more connected neighbourhood.

Award Presented by:
Richard Kirby
Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

1ST RUNNER UP



RYAN HULANCE

We Can CIC

For championing environmental action from the age of 13, collecting and recycling aluminium cans from community litter-picking efforts, raising funds for charities such as Anawim Women's Crisis Centre, protecting green spaces and inspiring young people to take action in their communities.

Award Presented by:
Richard Kirby
Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

WINNER



KATE ELLIS

One Project Macclesfield

For founding The One Project and building a community shop and support network in Macclesfield, rescuing around three tonnes of surplus food each week, providing free food, affordable clothing and wellbeing support to over 180 residents daily, while supporting vulnerable families and promoting sustainability.

Award Presented by:
Richard Kirby
Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

SPORTS AWARD FINALISTS



FATMA AHMED
Archway Boxing Project



SPORTING YOUR FUTURES



BEEZEE BY MAXIMUS
Maximus UK



LEE JONES JR
Ten Count Boxing Gym

SPORTS AWARD FINALISTS



WEST BROM
BASKETBALL CLUB



MOHAMMED MAHMOOD ALI
(SANU)
SMFC



LEE DEELEY
Deeley's Dragons Martial Arts



LADIES FOOTBALL 4 FUN

2ND RUNNER UP



LADIES FOOTBAL 4 FUN

For founding a volunteer-led community football programme in 2022, providing over 300 women, transgender and non-binary participants with a safe, inclusive space to play, while promoting wellbeing, building confidence and bringing communities together through sport and shared activities.

Award Presented by:

Alan Allmark

Area Commander and Assistant Director of Protection
West Midlands Fire Service

1ST RUNNER UP



WEST BROM BASKETBALL CLUB

For engaging over 200 participants each week through accessible basketball in Sandwell and Birmingham, removing financial barriers, creating pathways for young people and women, and promoting youth leadership, inclusion and mental wellbeing through initiatives including Team Talk.

Award Presented by:

Alan Allmark

Area Commander and Assistant Director of Protection
West Midlands Fire Service

WINNER



BEEZEE BY MAXIMUS

For expanding adapted football across five Birmingham centres, creating inclusive opportunities for adults with complex needs and learning disabilities, providing structured coaching and health support, promoting independence, securing full council funding and inspiring plans for national replication.

Award Presented by:

Alan Allmark

Area Commander and Assistant Director of Protection
West Midlands Fire Service



VOLUNTEER AWARD FINALISTS



RACHAEL SMITH



BECKY WARD
St Alphege Preschool



OWEN SUTTON



WENDY WEBB
The Hothouse & Tynings Lane Church

VOLUNTEER AWARD FINALISTS



SISTER ENDA GORMAN

Anawim:
Birmingham's Centre for Women



SIMON PAUL THOMAS

Challenge Adventure Group



MICHELLE DE-TORRE

Nigel Prosser Foundation



DECLAN ROGERS

FastAid Birmingham & Solihull

2ND RUNNER UP



WENDY WEBB

The Hothouse & Tynings Lane
Church

For dedicating her time to supporting residents across The Hothouse and Tynings Lane Church, organising activities and events that provide safe, welcoming spaces for children and young people, keeping vital community settings running, helping local youth feel valued and strengthening neighbourhood connections.

Award Presented by:
Richard Kirby
Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

1ST RUNNER UP



OWEN SUTTON

For raising awareness and support for brain tumour patients and families following his own diagnosis and four major surgeries, raising over £20,000 for charity, serving as a Young Ambassador, developing innovative aids for young patients and advocating for improved brain tumour funding.

Award Presented by:
Richard Kirby
Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

WINNER



MICHELLE DE-TORRE

Nigel Prosser Foundation

For founding the Nigel Prosser Foundation and empowering SEN families across the West Midlands, providing specialist equipment, financial assistance and emotional support, building collaborative local networks, reducing social isolation and SEN stigma, and ensuring families feel understood, valued and supported.

Award Presented by:
Richard Kirby
Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARD FINALISTS



HIMANSHU JAIN



ARFAN MOHAMMED



TAZ WAQAS
The H Foundation



REHANA BEGUM
Wednesbury Connecting Communities

GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARD FINALISTS



SOUTHAM AND DISTRICT
LIONS CLUB



PEOPLE'S ARCHES LTD



VICTOR BROWNE
Heath Town Tenants and
Residents Association



NADIA GIBANY
Nite Light CIC

2ND RUNNER UP



REHANA BEGUM
Wednesbury Connecting
Communities

For voluntarily empowering local South Asian women facing cultural and language barriers through Wednesbury Connecting Communities, organising tailored outdoor activities that build confidence, combat isolation and improve health, creating safe spaces for women to engage and play active roles in their community.

Award Presented by:
Shokat Lal
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council

1ST RUNNER UP



SOUTHAM AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

For serving Southam and surrounding villages for decades, raising thousands annually for local charities through community events, organising cherished traditions for all ages, supporting the local foodbank through monthly furniture sales, providing emergency relief, and offering daily medical transport for residents in need.

Award Presented by:
Shokat Lal
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council

WINNER



VICTOR BROWNE Heath Town Tenants and Residents Association

For advocating for Heath Town residents for over five years, bridging grassroots community needs with housing policy, hosting weekly coffee mornings to combat isolation, providing a trusted voice for neighbours in need, and helping tenants achieve meaningful change that positively impacts the community.

Award Presented by:
Shokat Lal
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council

CULTURAL HERITAGE & ARTS AWARD FINALISTS



DAVID CLARGO & CAROLE SLEIGHT
Whittle Productions
Community Interest Company



JANICE DAVIS
Eloquent Dance



ELOQUENT PRAISE &
EMPOWERMENT COMPANY



CENTRALA CIC

CULTURAL HERITAGE & ARTS AWARD FINALISTS



ANTONINA GREBENIUK



JENNIFER HOLYHEAD



CHARIS HAWKLEY

2ND RUNNER UP



CHARIS HAWKLEY

For dedicated multifaceted volunteering, cataloguing historical collections at the Birmingham & Midland Institute to improve research access, raising thousands for local causes, supporting women's shelters, animal rescues and the Royal British Legion, and using her Miss Ethereal Beauty Charity platform to advocate for neurodiversity and inspire community action.

Award Presented by:
Rebecca Tigue
Sixth Form Principal
of the University College Birmingham

1ST RUNNER UP



CENTRALA CIC

For 17 years of using art, culture and direct social support to bridge migrant and non-migrant communities across Birmingham, celebrating Central and Eastern European arts, providing crisis support and integration aid, creating inclusive spaces, mentoring working-class musicians, challenging prejudice and fostering regional social cohesion.

Award Presented by:
Rebecca Tighe
Sixth Form Principal
of the University College Birmingham

WINNER



DAVID CLARGO & CAROLE SLEIGHT Whittle Productions Community Interest Company

For delivering the transformative “Switched on Stories” project, preserving Leamington’s post-war history by documenting over 200 resident memories of the 1951–1961 illuminated festival, creating a documentary, podcasts and exhibition attracting 6,700 visitors, and safeguarding these archives for future generations.

Award Presented by:
Rebecca Tigue
Sixth Form Principal
of the University College Birmingham

YOUTH INSPIRATION AWARD FINALISTS



HELLEMA S. ASIF
Digby Youths



SYED ADIL AHMED
Deaf World



BLESST YLAB



JACK RIVERS

YOUTH INSPIRATION AWARD FINALISTS



TOGETHER ST PAUL'S
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TRUST



OPEN HOUSE CIC



LEE DEELEY



ARTHUR LEACH

2ND RUNNER UP



TOGETHER ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

For serving Balsall Heath for over 50 years, supporting over 3,200 residents in 2024–25 through early years, specialist education, community farming and family support services, delivering a cradle-to-community model, breaking cycles of crisis and co-designing new pathways for young people.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Kamel Hawwash
BCC Cabinet Member for
Children, Young People & Families

1ST RUNNER UP



JACK RIVERS

For launching a dedicated bus petition at just 14 to restore vital public transport links across St Osyth, Jaywick and Clacton-on-Sea, engaging local councillors and parliamentary representatives to secure a six-week bus service trial, and demonstrating outstanding youth initiative, determination and community advocacy.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Kamel Hawwash
BCC Cabinet Member for
Children, Young People & Families

WINNER



BLESST YLAB

For nurturing young people in Birmingham to become transformative community leaders through its BLESST model, building peer mental health networks, organising major public initiatives and paid projects with institutions such as the University of Birmingham, and developing an intergenerational model that inspires lasting local change.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Kamel Hawwash
BCC Cabinet Member for
Children, Young People & Families

PUBLIC SERVICES AWARD CATEGORY



COMMUNITY REASSURANCE AWARD FINALISTS



SENAID



KESGRAVE WAR MEMORIAL
COMMUNITY CENTRE



ANAWIM

Birmingham's Centre for Women



ALISON GLOVER

Paint Stratford

COMMUNITY REASSURANCE AWARD FINALISTS



DR AZA MOHAMEDLAW KURD

Kurd Clerisy Organization



PAUL HARPER

West Midlands Fire Service



GLEBE FARM COMMUNITY HUB

2ND RUNNER UP



ALISON GLOVER
Paint Stratford

For using public art and graffiti across Stratford as an outlet for mental health support and community healing, providing a compassionate, non-judgmental environment for residents to express complex feelings through art, building confidence and enhancing local wellbeing through vibrant community installations.

Award Presented by:
Carmen Watson
High Sheriff of the West Midlands
High Sheriff Association

1ST RUNNER UP



SENAID

For providing vital practical support to families of children with SEND across Birmingham and the West Midlands, guiding parents through EHC assessments, preventing escalation, encouraging collaboration, and empowering families to secure tailored educational support for vulnerable children.

Award Presented by:
Carmen Watson
High Sheriff of the West Midlands
High Sheriff Association

WINNER



DR AZA MOHAMEDLAW KURD
Kurd Clerisy organization

For nearly 25 years of public service in West Bromwich, founding the Ayoub School to preserve cultural heritage through education and youth sports, mentoring refugees to support integration, and combining food support with educational outreach to unite residents across generations.

Award Presented by:
Carmen Watson
High Sheriff of the West Midlands
High Sheriff Association

PUBLIC SERVICES AWARD FINALISTS



FASTAID BIRMINGHAM &
SOLIHULL



SABA YAFAI
Sandwell Council



THE ELLIOT FOUNDATION

PUBLIC SERVICES AWARD FINALISTS



ELIZABETH CAMPTON-STURRIDGE

Turnaround West Midlands



ASIF IQBAL



PTEN UK & IRELAND

2ND RUNNER UP



SABA YAFAI
Sandwell Council

For bringing warmth and compassion to supporting local residents, consistently prioritising the health and wellbeing of local families despite personal challenges, and demonstrating selfless commitment that continues to inspire and positively impact the community.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Chris Garghan
BCC Cabinet Member
Finance

1ST RUNNER UP



FASTAID BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL

For over 20 years of saving lives across the region as a volunteer-run Community First Responder charity, partnering with West Midlands Ambulance Service to respond to hundreds of 999 emergencies, providing life-saving resuscitation, and delivering free CPR and first-aid training to thousands of local residents.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Chris Garghan
BCC Cabinet Member
Finance

WINNER



ASIF IQBAL

For over 30 years of public service advancing equality, diversity and inclusion, advising institutions including the Cabinet Office and NHS England, bridging policy and lived experience to dismantle systemic barriers, spearheading Camden Council's landmark BSL Reception service, and championing greater inclusion and empowerment for Deaf communities.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Chris Garghan
BCC Cabinet Member
Finance

FIRE FIGHTER'S AWARD FINALISTS



MICHAEL HOUGH
West Midlands Fire Service



**WALSALL WHITE WATCH WEST
BROMWICH, WEDNESBURY AND
FIRE CONTROL**
West Midlands Fire Service



CRAIG TIPTON
West Midlands Fire Service



JEKATERINA MACIULAITIENE
West Midlands Fire Service

FIRE FIGHTER'S AWARD FINALISTS



WOLVERHAMPTON RED WATCH
AND THE PREVENTION TEAM
West Midlands Fire Service



MATTHEW HORNE
West Midlands Fire Service



RANI MASIH
West Midlands Fire Service

2ND RUNNER UP



WOLVERHAMPTON RED WATCH AND THE PREVENTION TEAM West Midlands Fire Service

For delivering a groundbreaking fire safety initiative for Deaf and Deafblind residents, partnering with Prevention Officers and specialist organisations to create fully accessible British Sign Language workshops, reaching over 40 community members, removing communication barriers, and setting a new benchmark for inclusive fire prevention.

Award Presented by:
Ayoub Khan
MP for Perry Barr

1ST RUNNER UP



JEKATERINA MACIULAITIENE West Midlands Fire Service

For combining frontline firefighting experience with prevention expertise to support vulnerable West Midlands residents, completing 121 Safe & Well visits, addressing complex hoarding and mobility risks, delivering 125 tailored safety interventions for Deaf citizens using Level 3 BSL, and assessing carbon monoxide risks for new mothers.

Award Presented by:
Ayoub Khan
MP for Perry Barr

WINNER

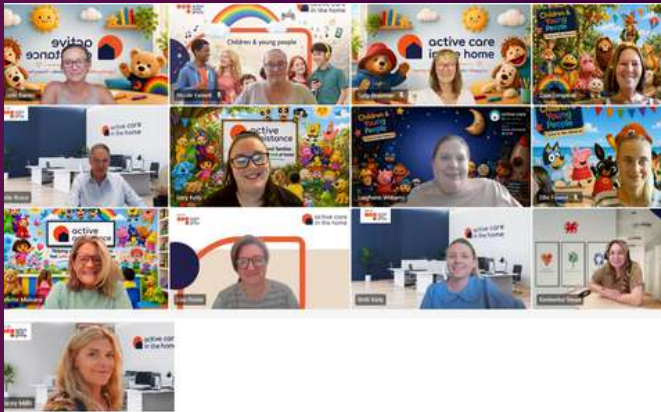


MATTHEW HORNE West Midlands Fire Service

For demonstrating exceptional bravery and dedication when responding to a serious road collision while off duty, providing vital trauma care to a severely injured pedestrian, stabilising the casualty in freezing conditions, and managing the scene until emergency services arrived.

Award Presented by:
Ayoub Khan
MP for Perry Barr

HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD FINALISTS



CYP TEAM CARE IN THE HOME
Active Care Group CiTH



BEATA WEBB
Pegasus Men's Wellbeing



WELLBEING MENTORING AND
STEPS2WELLBEING PROGRAMMES
Surrey Care Trust



JAMMA WELLBEING

HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD FINALISTS



SULTANA BEGUM

West Perinatal Mental Health Team



LAURA CAPPER & WENDY TITMUS

Cerebral Palsy Midlands:
Movement in Water Programme

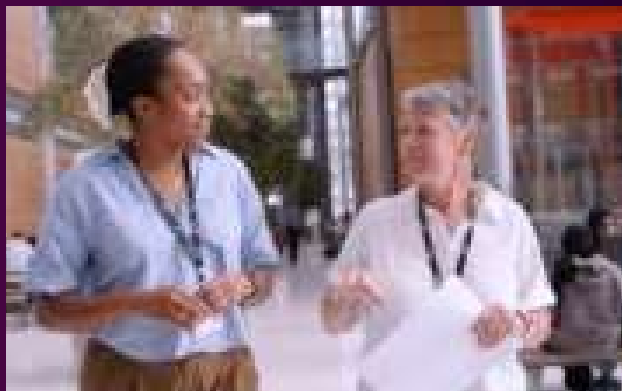


SIMPLY LIMITLESS



TERESA FARRELL

Push On Wellbeing CIC



NCMP TEAM

Maximus UK

2ND RUNNER UP



CYP TEAM CARE IN THE HOME Active Care Group CiTH

For delivering specialist care to children with complex healthcare needs, neurodiversity and challenging behaviours, providing tailored clinical and emotional support that enables young people to remain safely at home while accessing education, and giving families essential respite, stability and improved quality of life.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Wolverhampton City Council Cabinet Member
Health, Wellbeing Community

1ST RUNNER UP



NCMP TEAM Maximus UK

For transforming family engagement with child health support through compassionate motivational interviewing, proactively addressing barriers such as language and health literacy, using direct feedback to redesign communications, and creating an empathetic early-intervention approach that empowers families to support lifelong health.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Wolverhampton City Council Cabinet Member
Health, Wellbeing Community

WINNER



JAMMA WELLBEING

For adapting its neuroscience-based Brain Smart approach for East Birmingham, providing culturally meaningful mental health support for women, addressing anxiety and emotional regulation, training residents as peer ambassadors, and helping to destigmatise mental health while building a self-sustaining network of community champions.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Obaida Ahmed

Wolverhampton City Council Cabinet Member
Health, Wellbeing Community



EDUCATION SERVICE SAWARD FINALISTS



BRAMA



UKRAINE AID AND WELFARE



THE RECOVERY AND
WELLBEING ACADEMY



SIDRA CHOUDHARY
Leeds City College

EDUCATION SERVICE SAWARD FINALISTS



DAVE HUGHES
Aspire and Thrive



ASPIRE AND THRIVE



MAKEELA TISDEL-JONES
Luminate Education Group



KATE FUN
Home Educated Children's
Orchestra and Choir

2ND RUNNER UP



MAKEELA TISDEL-JONES
Luminate Education Group

For leading a group-wide inclusion and cultural awareness initiative, coordinating and delivering a year-long programme across 11 cultural observances including Black History Month and Ramadan, developing educational resources, fostering community cohesion and creating safe spaces for dialogue that unite students in cultivating greater cultural understanding and respect.

Award Presented by:
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO at the
Birmingham Met College

1ST RUNNER UP



THE RECOVERY AND WELLBEING ACADEMY

For jointly leading an accessible recovery education programme across Coventry and Warwickshire with local NHS and Mind trusts and 31 partners, supporting over 4,000 adult learners annually through co-produced, recovery-focused courses, using lived experience to reduce stigma, build confidence and combat loneliness while easing pressure on acute services.

Award Presented by:
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO at the
Birmingham Met College

WINNER



BRAMA

For supporting refugee communities, including Ukrainian and Hong Kong arrivals, by providing English language training, housing and emergency support, cultural visits and integration opportunities, while employing teachers from within refugee communities and supporting them to gain recognised UK qualifications.

Award Presented by:
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO at the
Birmingham Met College

BUSINESS & ENTREPRISE SAWARD FINALISTS



MIAPI



NAJMA AZIZ

The Railway Children's Day Nursery



VICTORIA

ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT



SAMANTHA MCGILLOWAY

Southern Print Services Limited

BUSINESS & ENTREPRISE SAWARD FINALISTS



THE HIGHLIFE CENTRE



BUSINESS 2 BUSINESS LIMITED



EDWARD BLACKWELL

Reloved Brum by Birmingham Hospice



AL MIRAJ

2ND RUNNER UP



NAJMA AZIZ
The Railway Children's
Day Nursery

For over 15 years of supporting Birmingham families through early years education, operating Railway Children's Day Nursery, running holiday food programmes and helping to establish a child contact centre, providing free childcare during hardship, supporting families in crisis and prioritising staff wellbeing to create a compassionate safety net for the community.

Award Presented by:
Shokat Lal
Chief Executive at
Sandwell Council

1ST RUNNER UP



EDWARD BLACKWELL Reloved Brum by Birmingham Hospice

For transforming a Birmingham Hospice charity shop into a vibrant community hub, generating vital funding for end-of-life care, supporting local vendors and events, managing donations, providing work placements for refugees, and fostering an inclusive space that has become a valued neighbourhood anchor.

Award Presented by:
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO at the
Birmingham Met College

WINNER



BUSINESS 2 BUSINESS LIMITED

For 40 years of delivering impactful employability initiatives across the Midlands, providing culturally responsive, person-centred support through the Restart programme, with a diverse eight-language team helping residents facing complex barriers to work build pathways towards employment and transform their lives.

Award Presented by:
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO at the
Birmingham Met College

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION AWARD FINALISTS



ESSEX THERAPY DOGS



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR
ALL INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE (RJ4ALL)



DIFFERENCES NOT DISABILITIES



YSS

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION AWARD FINALISTS



YMCA SUTTON COLDFIELD



NITE LIGHT CIC



BEARDED BROZ



NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP



UNITY IN COVENTRY

2ND RUNNER UP



ESSEX THERAPY DOGS

For providing structured therapy dog visits across schools, care homes and hospitals throughout Essex, supporting people experiencing anxiety, isolation and trauma, creating transformative therapeutic connections that have helped non-verbal dementia residents speak and anxious children return to school.

Award Presented by:
Mike Hopkins MBE
Principal of
South and City College Birmingham

1ST RUNNER UP



YSS

For 25 years of delivering holistic, community-based support across the Marches in the West Midlands, helping individuals and families experiencing disadvantage, poverty, trauma, exclusion and crisis, with a team of 33 supporting over 1,300 people in the past year and enabling individuals to reshape their futures.

Award Presented by:
Mike Hopkins MBE
Principal of
South and City College Birmingham

WINNER



UNITY IN COVENTRY

For uniting the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies through inclusive events, networks, resources and support, celebrating diversity, strengthening community connections, promoting positive change, and creating safe spaces where marginalised individuals can connect, grow and thrive.

Award Presented by:
Mike Hopkins MBE
Principal of
South and City College Birmingham



SOCIAL CARE & SUPPORTS AWARD

FINALISTS



SARAH TAAL
BAOBAB Women's Project



ANDREW CARTWRIGHT
Spring Housing Association



JULIE KILKELLY
BIRMINGHAM CRISIS CENTRE



HELEN PLATT
Derbyshire County Council

SOCIAL CARE & SUPPORTS AWARD FINALISTS



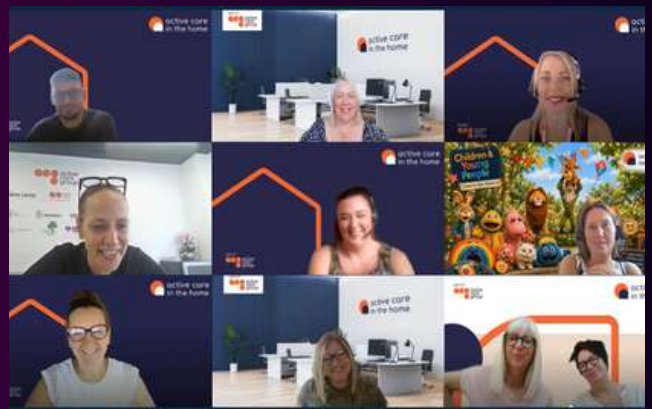
ADAVU



SANDRA FERREIRA
The Ferry Project



NANA YABBEY HAGAN
Redbridge Council



ACTIVE CARE IN THE HOME
Active Care Group CiTH

2ND RUNNER UP



ANDREW CARTWRIGHT Spring Housing Association

For delivering compassionate outreach support to homeless individuals and families facing crisis, working with local services to understand needs and bridge critical gaps, using a trauma-informed approach to restore trust, stability and dignity, and providing an essential source of support during acute hardship.

Award Presented by:
Cllr Baber Baz
BCC Cabinet Member
Housing and Homelessness

1ST RUNNER UP



ACTIVE CARE IN THE HOME Active Care Group CiTH

For delivering specialist, tailored care that enables individuals with complex healthcare needs, including neurological conditions and learning disabilities, to live safely and independently at home, working closely with families and healthcare teams to support community participation while providing essential respite and stability.

Award Presented by:
Cll Baber Baz
BCC Cabinet Member
Housing and Homelessness

WINNER



ADAVU

For delivering life-changing support to survivors of modern slavery and trafficking, guiding individuals through the National Referral Mechanism, securing safe housing, legal advocacy and health services, preventing re-exploitation, bridging service gaps, and empowering survivors to move from crisis towards safety, independence and recovery.

Award Presented by:
Cll Baber Baz
BCC Cabinet Member
Housing and Homelessness

OFFENDER SUPPORT AWARD FINALISTS



OFFENDING TO RECOVERY PROGRAMME

West Midlands Police

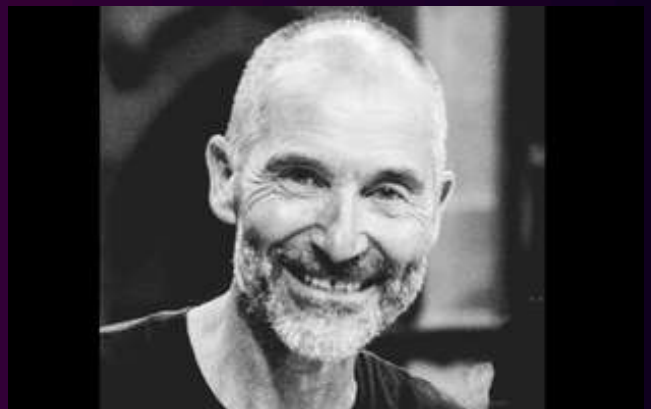


PAULINE MILLER BROWN

Restart Enterprise CIC



HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE AND REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS



PETE CHURCHILL

Beating Time

OFFENDER SUPPORT AWARD FINALISTS



SWINGBRIDGE COMMUNITY BOATS
Surrey Care Trust



LINDALE HOMES



SAJID ZULFIQAR
Fresh Start



SYNERGY STUDIO TEAM
Synergy Theatre Project

2ND RUNNER UP



LINDALE HOMES

For providing safe supported accommodation and recovery support to individuals overcoming addiction, homelessness and criminal justice involvement, combining guidance and therapeutic support to break cycles of reoffending and substance misuse, while empowering residents towards volunteering, independent living and employment.

Award Presented by:
Paul Drover
Assistant Chief Contsable
West Midlands Police

1ST RUNNER UP



PETE CHURCHILL Beating Time

For co-founding the first prison choir at HMP Birmingham and leading weekly singing sessions, using music to provide a therapeutic lifeline that boosts wellbeing, restores confidence, dignity and connection, and supporting marginalised individuals through his work in prisons, mental health settings and as Music Director for the Choir with No Name.

Award Presented by:
Paul Drover
Assistant Chief Contsable
West Midlands Police

WINNER



PAULINE MILLER BROWN
Restart Enterprise CIC

For founding and leading Restart Enterprise CIC, a self-sustaining social enterprise across three prisons that addresses identified needs through culturally diverse foods, fresh produce, specialist hair and skincare, vitamins and nutrition, while providing Through the Gate support, affordable community food, volunteering and employment opportunities beyond custody.

Award Presented by:
Paul Drover
Assistant Chief Constable
West Midlands Police

CARE SECTOR AWARD FINALISTS



LEEDS INVOLVING PEOPLE



CAREMARK SOLIHULL



MAUREEN CONNOLLY

Chief Executive of Birmingham and
Solihull Women's Aid



THE MOTIVATION HUB

CARE SECTOR AWARD FINALISTS



CENTRAL AMHP TEAM | DERBYSHIRE



PORTIA BENTLEY

Hanley, Bucknall & Bentilee PCN

2ND RUNNER UP



MAUREEN CONNOLLY

Chief Executive of Birmingham
and Solihull Women's Aid

For over 30 years of supporting survivors of domestic abuse, growing Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid into a regional lifeline with six refuges, drop-in centres and a helpline supporting over 20,000 women each year, providing safety, legal support and holistic care to help survivors rebuild independent lives.

Award Presented by:

Richard Kirby

Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

1ST RUNNER UP



PORTIA BENTLEY
Hanley, Bucknall &
Bentilee PCN

For advocating for neurodivergent and LGBTQ+ individuals, breaking down barriers for people overlooked by statutory systems, guiding individuals towards mental health support, raising neurodiversity awareness, encouraging workplace accommodations, challenging stigma, and empowering vulnerable people to build greater independence and resilience.

Award Presented by:
Richard Kirby
Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

WINNER



CAREMARK SOLIHULL

For delivering personalised home support to vulnerable residents, particularly older people, combining practical assistance with companionship to combat loneliness, promote independence and maintain community connections, while providing families with reassurance and setting a high standard in social care.

Award Presented by:
Richard Kirby
Chief Executive

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

EARLY YEARS NURSERY SECTOR AWARD FINALISTS



WILTSHIRE TREEHOUSE



PRIORY SCHOOL EDGBASTON



RAINBOW DAY NURSERY



MARIYA KHAN
Moseley Montessori Nursery

EARLY YEARS NURSERY SECTOR AWARD FINALISTS



LESLEY RICHARDS
Thrive at Five



SHABNUM BI
Early Nurture Preschool



BUSYBUGS NURSERY

2ND RUNNER UP



LESLEY RICHARDS

Thrive at Five

For bringing families together through free community events, providing activities, healthy food and opportunities to bond, while breaking down social barriers, strengthening community cohesion and connecting families with essential support and learning experiences.

Award Presented by:
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO at the
Birmingham Met College

1ST RUNNER UP



SHABNUM BI
Early Nurture Preschool

For leading Anglesey Playgroup through three Ofsted Outstanding judgments and founding Early Nurture Pre-School to deliver inclusive SEND support, combining high-quality early years education with community advocacy and setting a standard for accessible, holistic learning.

Award Presented by:
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO at the
Birmingham Met College

WINNER



RAINBOW DAY NURSERY

For reopening after a two-year closure following a fire, providing a positive learning environment recognised by Ofsted, creating training and placement opportunities for 15 volunteers and students, and offering free 15-hour childcare to all children from age two regardless of eligibility.

Award Presented by:
Pat Carvalho
Principal and CEO at the
Birmingham Met College

TRAINING PROVIDER AWARD FINALISTS



REHANA BEGUM

Wednesbury Connecting Communities



SKILLBASE FIRST AID



LORENZHO HALL

Transform & Achieve



HEALTH TALKS



GREATER LONDON SCOUT REGION

2ND RUNNER UP



LORENZO HALL
Transform & Achieve

For delivering transformative employability training and personalised coaching to marginalised and long-term unemployed individuals, drawing on over a decade of experience to build workplace skills, restore self-belief, overcome barriers to employment and support people towards lasting independence.

Award Presented by:
Simon Foster

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

1ST RUNNER UP



SKILLBASE FIRST AID

For delivering innovative first aid and wellbeing training across the UK, equipping workplaces, schools and charities with essential emergency response skills, empowering children through the Mini Heroes programme, and giving thousands the confidence to respond calmly in a crisis and potentially save lives.

Award Presented by:
Simon Foster

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

WINNER



HEALTH TALKS

For delivering a groundbreaking Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Health Champions pilot in Kent, co-producing culturally tailored health training with community members, breaking down barriers to NHS services and health literacy, and empowering peer champions to tackle health inequalities and strengthen communities.

Award Presented by:

Simon Foster

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

Comments

“A huge thank you for such a wonderful evening on Friday.

We were absolutely thrilled that our Lights of Leamington: Switched On Stories project won the Cultural Heritage and Arts Award. It was a genuine surprise, especially given the fantastic projects and organisations represented on the night. It was a lovely event, and we're enormously grateful to everyone involved in organising it and celebrating the work happening in communities across the country. Thanks again for a memorable evening and for recognising a project that has meant so much to us and everyone involved.”

David Clargo & Carole Sleight | Whittle Productions Community Interest Company

“Thank you so much for an excellent evening on Friday. The Community Awards really were inspiring and I left hugely encouraged by the amount of remarkable work that goes on in our communities. It was a privilege to be invited to present an award and lovely to meet you and some of your colleagues as well as many others. Many congratulations on such a significant and beautifully organised event.”

Venerable Jenny Tomlinson | Archdeacon of Birmingham

“Thank you for arranging the BSL interpreters for the Community Inspiration Awards last week. Their support made a huge difference and helped make the event accessible and enjoyable. I was deeply honoured to receive the Public Service Award. As the first deaf person to win this award in the history of the category, it was a particularly meaningful achievement for me and one that I will always cherish. It was wonderful to hear the powerful stories of the finalists and winners, and the evening was both impressive and memorable.”

Asif Iqbal

VIP APOLOGIES

The following award presenters were unable to attend due to other pressing engagements and have asked us to pass on their congratulations to all finalists.

- Richard Parker, Mayor, West Midlands Combined Authority
- Simon Tuhill, Chief Officer and Chief Executive, West Midlands Fire Service
- Diane Wake, Group Chief Executive, NHS – Sandwell and West Birmingham
- Sir David Nicholson, Chair of NHS – Sandwell and West Birmingham
- Scott Green, Acting Chief Constable, West Midlands Police
- Siobhan Blake, Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service
- Michael Harkin, Vice Chancellor, University College Birmingham
- The Lord Fox, Member of the House of Lords
- The Right Reverend Dr Michael Volland, Bishop of Birmingham, The Church of England
- The Right Reverend Esther Prior, Bishop of Aston, The Church of England
- Sir Tony Gallagher, Founder and Former Chairman, Gallagher Estates and Gallagher Developments
- Tim Clegg, Chief Executive, Cannock Chase District Council and Stafford Borough Council
- Vic Allison, Chief Executive, Malvern Hills District Council
- Tom Shardlow, Chief Executive, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Dan Green, Chief Executive, Rugby Borough Council
- Tanya Miles, Chief Executive, Shropshire Council
- Dave Heywood, Chief Executive, South Stafford District Council
- Pat Flaherty, Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council
- Andrew Stokes, Chief Executive, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
- Paul Johnson, Chief Executive, Solihull Council
- Emma Bennett, Chief Executive, Walsall City Council
- Cllr Elaine Williams, Leader, Walsall City Council
- Jess Philips, MP for Yardley
- Mary Creagh, MP for Coventry East
- Paulette Hamilton, MP for Birmingham Erdington

Thank You

It was great to see so many people at the 14th Community Inspiration Awards ceremony and to be in the presence of wonderful people who have done truly amazing things.

We look forward to hosting next year's Community Inspiration Awards!

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of England and Wales



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OF ENGLAND

Birmingham
City Council

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE
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BMet
Inspiring futures, realising dreams.

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