



## **Buckinghamshire Care Awards 2027**

### **Terms and Conditions**

**and**

### **Awards Guidance**

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- **The 2027 Categories**
  - **Rules for Entry**
  - **How to Enter**
  - **Top Ten Tips for a Winning Nomination**
  - **Awards Criteria**
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**Thank you for your interest in the [Buckinghamshire Care Awards 2027](#)**

## The 2027 Categories

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There are 9 award categories to choose from for the Buckinghamshire Care Awards 2027.

If you are unsure which category best fits your nominee, select Let **BCPA** choose and we will allocate your nomination to the most appropriate award.

| Award category                          | Core evidence                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Care Home Worker                     | Creating a home and relationships                               |
| 2. Home Care Worker                     | Independence at home                                            |
| 3. LD Support Worker                    | Choice, control and community inclusion                         |
| 4. Care Leader                          | Improving services through influence                            |
| 5. Emerging Talent and New Professional | Learning and future potential                                   |
| 6. Team                                 | Collective achievement                                          |
| 7. Activities and Wellbeing Champion    | Enriching lives and wellbeing                                   |
| 8. Hidden Gem                           | Unseen contribution                                             |
| 9. Buckinghamshire Hero                 | Extraordinary achievement                                       |
| 10. Let <b>BCPA</b> choose              | For nominations that don't readily fit into any other category. |

## Rules for entry

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Nominations for the **Buckinghamshire Care Awards 2027** are open to **staff, volunteers, unpaid carers, care recipients** working in, contributing to, or receiving care and support in the **adult social care sector** in **Buckinghamshire**.

The Awards cover care work from 1 January 2026 onwards, except Long Term Service Award, which recognises contribution over *at least* 10 years.

One nomination per entry.

All entries are treated confidentially.

Entries will be judged by a panel of reputable, independent and impartial adjudicators.

Entries will not be returned.

**The Judges' decision is final and no discussion will be entered into.**

## How to enter

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Choose the category in which you want to nominate a colleague, or team.

If you are entering into more than one category, separate entries must be completed.

**Please read the Awards Judging Criteria carefully.**

Write a statement of up to 600 words saying why the nomination should be considered.

Additional evidence from a service user/ resident/ client/ family member is welcomed, but not essential.

Add a photo of the Nominee so we can build a showcase for Buckinghamshire's stars of 2027.

If you would like to add more information to support your online nomination, please use the **Add file** option in the entry form.

Additional evidence should be no more than two A4 pages.

Please make sure that the **name of the nominee** and the **award category** is included on all supporting information.

Please do not include logos, or links to websites, social media etc.

All nominations are shortlisted from multiple submissions: be clear why this individual or team stands out from your usual service delivery.

Complete the online entry form and submit.

Entries will be received at [awards@buckscare.org](mailto:awards@buckscare.org).

This is the email address for any queries or follow up.

When you submit your form online, you will receive a confirmation e-mail: please check your junk folders for receipt. If you do not receive one, please email us at the above address.

**Closing date for Nominations is midnight on 30 November 2026.**

## Top Ten Tips for Writing Winning Nominations

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Make your nomination stand out. Competition standards increase year on year.

We do not know why a person or team is outstanding. Convince us.

1. Think carefully about who in your team, or which team, deserves additional recognition for their work over the last 12 months, or, in the case of Long Term Service, their contribution over 10 or more years
2. Read the Rules of Entry above
3. Check the Award criteria and try to evidence each bullet point
4. Write your supporting statement
5. When ready, copy and paste the wording into [the online nomination form for the Buckinghamshire Care Awards 2027](#)
6. Keep a copy of your final submission
7. Check that you are nominating the person in the right category for their role, or **Let BCPA choose**
8. Add a photo of the Nominee. We will use it to showcase our stars of 2027
9. Tell the Nominee, their manager/ their employer (where relevant). All Nominees are winners just by you recognising them
10. And relax – you are going to make someone very happy

## 1. Care Home Worker Award

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This Award is open to all frontline staff who provide care in residential or nursing homes and recognises the vital role of the Care Home Worker in delivering high-quality care in residential settings. Nominees must demonstrate dedication, professionalism, and a commitment to continuous personal and career development.

Nominees should provide excellent, person-centred care, treating each resident as an individual and supporting their independence. Respecting privacy and dignity is essential, and examples of going the extra mile (or two) are highly valued. Examples of delivering care to residents with complex needs are welcomed

Nominees should show an active role in involving residents and families in care development and demonstrate initiative, adaptability, and responsiveness. A commitment to personal development, training, and teamwork is key to success in this award.

1. Treat each resident as an individual, recognising their individual needs and interests and supporting their independence
2. Respect privacy and dignity, demonstrate initiative and adaptability and are willing to challenge established practices
3. Involved in additional activities further developing their role, or the roles of others
4. Have gone above and beyond to give back and positively impact their workplace and community
5. Develops meaningful relationships with residents and helps create a warm, inclusive and homely environment.
6. Show a commitment to personal development, training, and teamwork
7. Demonstrate initiative, positive influence and a commitment to improving outcomes for residents.
8. Is a proactive and helpful member of the team, contributing ideas and helping to make the care setting a positive place in which to live and work.
9. Commit to providing high-quality care, and a willingness to go the extra mile (or two!)
10. Miscellaneous impact: they have done something exceptional, which makes them stand out

## 2. Home Care Worker Award

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This Award recognises the vital contribution of Home Care Workers in delivering high-quality care to individuals in their own homes. Nominees should empower clients to make decisions, maintain independence, and receive dignified, personalised support that respects their privacy. Nominees should demonstrate the ability to work independently, often without direct supervision, make sound decisions in people's homes and build trusted relationships, whilst supporting people to remain independent. Examples of delivering care to people with complex needs are welcomed

We seek evidence of collaboration with clients and carers, a willingness to go the extra mile, and a proactive approach to personal development through training and learning. Adaptability, responsiveness, and initiative in meeting individual needs are essential.

1. Treat each client/service user as an individual, recognising their unique needs and interests and supporting their independence.
2. Respect privacy and dignity, demonstrate initiative and adaptability and are willing to challenge established practices
3. Involved in additional activities further developing their role, or the roles of others
4. Have gone above and beyond to give back and positively impact their workplace and community
5. Supports people to remain independent, safe and connected within their own homes and communities.
6. Have shown a commitment to personal development, training, and teamwork
7. Demonstrate initiative, problem-solving skills and the confidence to improve outcomes for people they support.
8. Are a proactive and helpful member of the wider team, contribute ideas and help make the service a positive place in which to work.
9. Commit to providing high-quality care, and a willingness to go the extra mile (or two!)
10. Miscellaneous impact: they have done something exceptional, which makes them stand out

### 3. LD Support Worker Award

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This Award is open to frontline workforce working in supported living, day services or other community-based services such as supporting work or college placements. Nominations of community care-givers, support workers, including seniors and personal assistants are welcomed.

This Award recognises the vital contribution of Learning Disability Support Workers in enabling people to live fulfilling, independent and meaningful lives within their communities. Nominees should support people to exercise choice and control, develop skills, build relationships and achieve their personal goals whilst receiving dignified, person-centred support.

We are particularly looking for examples of enabling choice and control, supported decision-making, communication, rights, inclusion and achievement of personal aspirations.

Examples of delivering care to people with complex needs are welcomed.

1. Treat each client/service user as an individual, recognising their unique needs and interests and supporting their independence.
2. Respect privacy and dignity, demonstrate initiative and adaptability and are willing to challenge established practices
3. Involved in additional activities further developing their role, or the roles of others
4. Have gone above and beyond to give back and positively impact their workplace and community
5. Supports people to achieve personal goals, develop skills and participate actively in community life.
6. Have shown a commitment to personal development, training, and teamwork
7. Demonstrate initiative, problem-solving skills and the confidence to improve outcomes for people they support.
8. Are a proactive and helpful member of the wider team, contribute ideas and help make the service a positive place in which to work.
9. Promote rights, choice, control and meaningful participation in community life and a willingness to go the extra mile (or two!)
10. Miscellaneous impact: they have done something exceptional, which makes them stand out

## 4. Care Leader Award

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This Award recognises outstanding skills in Leadership within a social care setting. The nominee may or may not be in a position of management, but will demonstrate significant skills and aptitude for leadership of projects, or teams, or situations.

This Award is open to supervisors, senior care workers, team leaders, first-time managers, or established management, who have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving care and support delivery within their team, or wider organisation.

The person will have shown leadership qualities by reflecting on areas for improvement and actively supporting others to drive positive change. They should inspire their team, or others, to strive for excellence in care, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Their ability to motivate and guide colleagues, implement effective solutions, and lead by example will be key attributes in receiving this recognition.

1. Demonstrate the ability to inspire others and lead by example
2. Use innovative methods to address challenges in the service or wider sector
3. Show tangible results of initiatives
4. Support and advocate for social care issues, specifically individual rights
5. Work collaboratively and effectively with a variety of stakeholders
6. Put people at the centre of care and support dignity at all times
7. Motivate and develop staff
8. Creates a positive culture that improves retention, engagement and quality of care.
9. Demonstrate measurable improvements in quality, culture, outcomes or performance resulting from their leadership.
10. Commit to or have undertaken learning, training, qualifications, or accreditations which enhance their leadership role

## 5. Emerging Talent and New Professional Award

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This Award is open to any person aged 16 or over connected with your Buckinghamshire service who is currently studying a health or social care-related qualification (including BTEC, T-level, professional qualifications or recognised further study), undertaking a placement or work experience, or who has joined the adult social care sector within the last 12 months, either for the first time or after an absence of at least two years.

The Award recognises individuals who demonstrate outstanding potential, commitment to learning and development, and a strong contribution to adult social care. Nominees may be students, trainees, apprentices, those on placement, or new entrants to the care sector. They should demonstrate how they have applied learning, skills, experience, or personal qualities to make a positive impact on people, teams, services, or their wider community.

Your nomination should evidence one or more of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates excellence in learning, training or professional development, showing a strong understanding of relevant knowledge, theory and practice
2. Applies knowledge, skills and learning effectively to practical, real-world situations and solutions
3. Has made a positive impact within their workplace, educational setting, placement, or other relevant environment
4. Demonstrates initiative, confidence, leadership potential and a willingness to influence positive change
5. Has actively engaged in additional activities, projects, research, volunteering or other opportunities that enhance their development and support others
6. Has gone above and beyond to make a positive contribution to their workplace, educational setting, service users or local community
7. Can communicate, present or showcase their achievements, learning and contributions clearly and confidently
8. Demonstrates a commitment to continuous learning, evidence-based practice and improving their knowledge and skills
9. Shows creativity, innovation and the ability to think differently when solving problems or improving outcomes
10. Has embraced the values of adult social care, adapted positively to new responsibilities and demonstrated exceptional commitment or impact that makes them stand out from their peers

## 6. Team Award

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This Award celebrates the Team that best demonstrates a shared vision and clear goals, led by a recognised and respected leader, or by a resident/ client/ service user/ family member, or by consensus. Team members should have a clear understanding of their roles, take personal responsibility for their tasks, and foster excellent communication, cooperation, and mutual trust.

The Team must prioritise dignity and privacy for clients while respecting one another, maintaining high morale, and recognising each member's unique skills. They should embody person-centred care and involve clients, carers, or relatives in service development. Commitment to learning and personal growth, effective conflict resolution, and avoiding stereotypes are essential. The Team must showcase outstanding qualities that set them apart.

Any group of people can enter this Award including catering, ancillary, outreach, team-around-a-person, a single shift, or other group focused on a common task.

Please do not enter a whole organisation.

1. Clarity of shared vision, values, aims and approach to achieving success
2. A commitment to the team's health and wellbeing and how they display this in line with our leadership behaviours
3. Substantial evidence of involving the people the Team supports
4. Approach is creative, innovative, and effective
5. Demonstrate a high level of performance, capability, and commitment
6. Demonstrate a commitment to users of services through outstanding person-centred care
7. Demonstrates collective achievement that could not have been delivered by individuals working alone.
8. Learns from what they have done together and their combined performance is enhanced
9. Able to advocate for improvement or resources (even if unsuccessful) based on outcomes achieved
10. Able to manage change and flexibility according to Team personnel or changing needs of the focus person, or people.

## 7. Activities and Wellbeing Champion Award

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This Award recognises an individual who develops, organises or delivers activities, events, programmes or wellbeing initiatives that make a positive difference to the lives of people who use services and/or the wellbeing, engagement and experience of colleagues working within the organisation. Nominees may work in dedicated activities roles or may incorporate wellbeing support into another care, support, leadership or ancillary role.

The nominee will demonstrate creativity, enthusiasm and a commitment to improving physical, emotional, social or community wellbeing. Evidence should show how their work has enriched lives, increased participation, reduced isolation, improved engagement or created positive experiences for others. Activities may be social, educational, physical, creative, therapeutic or community-based, and should demonstrate a measurable positive impact on wellbeing.

Your nomination should evidence one or more of the following criteria:

1. Creates, develops or delivers activities which enhance wellbeing, independence or quality of life
2. Encourages participation and enables people to make meaningful choices about how they spend their time
3. Demonstrates creativity and innovation in designing activities, events or wellbeing initiatives
4. Builds confidence, social connections or community engagement for people receiving support
5. Supports emotional, physical, social or cognitive wellbeing through tailored approaches
6. Adapts activities to meet individual abilities, interests, preferences and communication needs
7. Involves families, volunteers, colleagues or community groups to broaden opportunities
8. Demonstrates measurable positive outcomes for people who use services or for colleagues
9. Shows enthusiasm, commitment and leadership in promoting wellbeing across the organisation
10. Demonstrates how activities have improved engagement, reduced isolation or increased wellbeing

## 8. Hidden Gem

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This Award recognises individuals whose contribution takes place largely behind the scenes (non-care roles like maintenance, kitchen staff, finance or HR leads) but is essential to the delivery of outstanding care and support. Although their role may not involve delivering direct care, their contribution is fundamental to the quality of care experienced by others.

Nominees may work in administration, finance, maintenance, catering, housekeeping, transport, reception, human resources, facilities, estates or other support functions.

Your nomination should evidence one or more of the following criteria:

1. Makes a significant contribution to the success of the service through a support role
2. Demonstrates reliability, professionalism and a consistently positive attitude
3. Goes beyond the normal expectations of their role to help others
4. Improves the experience of people using services, visitors or colleagues
5. Identifies and implements practical improvements that enhance quality, safety or efficiency
6. Supports colleagues and contributes positively to team culture
7. Demonstrates innovation, initiative and effective problem-solving
8. Responds positively and flexibly to changing needs or unexpected challenges
9. Takes pride in delivering excellent service and maintaining high standards
10. Makes a vital contribution that often goes unnoticed but is essential to the quality of care and support delivered

## 9. Buckinghamshire Hero Award

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This category is open to any individual who has an unpaid/ voluntary role within the organisation. Their actions, innovation, dedication or achievement have made an outstanding contribution to adult social care in Buckinghamshire.

It recognises those whose impact has made a significant difference to individuals, services, organisations or communities.

Your nomination should evidence one or more of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates exceptional commitment to improving the lives of others
2. Has delivered outstanding outcomes through innovation, leadership or personal dedication
3. Creates positive change that extends beyond their immediate role or organisation
4. Strengthens communities and promotes independence, choice and wellbeing
5. Shows determination and resilience when overcoming significant challenges
6. Advocates for individuals, communities or the wider social care sector
7. Builds effective partnerships and supports collaborative working
8. Has made a measurable and lasting impact on people receiving care and support
9. Inspires others through their actions, values and achievements
10. Has achieved something truly extraordinary that falls outside normal expectations of their role

## 10. Let BCPA choose

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This category is for nominations that might fit into more than one category, or you are unsure for which award to nominate someone for. **BCPA** will assign your nomination to the most appropriate category. All nominations will be considered.

Thank you.

*end*