



SCOTTISH CARE'S

# Care at home & housing support awards 2026

**Awards Category Guidelines**



**Enter at [www.scottishcare.org](http://www.scottishcare.org)**



## Emerging Talent Award

This award will recognise an individual who is either new to the sector or has grown in their role to become a shining example of the care at home/housing support workforce. They could be working in any role, but need to have:

- **Achieved something beyond their normal role requirements/ comfort zone**
- **Made a demonstrable difference since commencing their role (please provide a relevant example)**
- **Shown a willingness to learn and improve**
- **Been a positive example to colleagues within the service or across the sector.**

*This category is open to individuals only.*



## Care Services Coordination / Administration Award

The delivery of good homecare services requires a high level of organisation and logistical planning to ensure the right people are in the right place at the right time. The nomination should show that this individual:

- **Improves the lives of service users and staff through excellent co-ordination or administration**
- **Has brought innovative or fresh thinking to the role (please provide examples)**
- **Really stands out in the role**
- **Has the skills, qualities and approach that underpins the wider team/organisation.**

*This category is open to individuals & job share partnerships only.*





## Care Learning Award

This award will acknowledge the importance of continuous training and learning within care at home and housing support services. It looks for a person, team or company that has shown:

- **Enthusiasm and determination in identifying training and development needs for themselves or other care staff**
- **Commitment and achievement in attending, promoting, delivering and/or sustaining training**
- **Examples of identifying strengths and opportunities for continuing professional development**
- **Ability to enthuse and energise staff to attend and request training.**

*This category is open to individuals and teams.*



## Leadership Award

This award will be given to a member of staff, regardless of level, who has demonstrated effective management or leadership in the delivery of quality care at home or housing support. They will:

- **Show vision in developing person centred care and supporting staff to meet the changing needs of clients**
- **Give an example of supporting staff**
- **Show how they keep up to date with the latest information**
- **Be able to reflect on what could be better and support others to bring about change.**

*This category is open to individuals only.*





## Outstanding Achievement Award

This award seeks to celebrate the lives of individuals and their continued achievements whilst being supported at home. This award category is open to individuals of all ages. This award will be given to an individual or group who receives care and support and who has:

- **Overcome difficulties**
- **Tried something new**
- **Accomplished something they didn't think they could -Taken steps to enhance their lives or those of others in the community.**

*This category is open to individuals who access care and support through a Scottish Care member service.*



## Care Worker of the Year

This award recognises the significant role of care workers in consistently providing a high-quality standard for people living at home. The winner can be a paid carer of any level and will:

- **Understand and demonstrate treating each person as an individual by giving a personalised service**
- **Help people to be more independent wherever possible**
- **Be aware of personal development and looks for opportunities to absorb knowledge and skills**
- **Use initiative (including examples).**

*This category is open to individuals only.*





## Care Innovation Award

This award celebrates exceptional achievements in transforming the care community, service, and environment. In a time of remarkable challenge within the care sector, this award recognises an individual or team who has:

- **Evidence of the use of innovative approaches and a willingness to embrace positive person-centred practice.**
- **Demonstrated outstanding dedication, creativity, and progress within the care sector.**
- **Positively impacted the lives of service users and clients, fostering a nurturing environment, and setting new standards of excellence.**
- **Revolutionised the care at home and housing support environment through the implementation of new processes or creative activities.**

*This category is open to individuals and teams.*



## Digital Innovation & People Award

This award will be given to an individual or a team, that has shown particular commitment to embedding the positive use and development of technology and digital innovation in the care and support of individuals in their own home or housing with support environment. They will:

- **Demonstrate an understanding of the benefits and potential of the use of technology.**
- **Understand and demonstrate the use of technology and digital to promote independence and autonomy amongst those being supported and cared for.**
- **Use technology in a way which treats each person as an individual by enhancing a personalised service.**
- **Shown clear evidence of engagement and inclusion in the use of the technology whether for staff or those who use supports.**

*This category is open to individuals and teams.*





## Provider of the Year

This prestigious award will be given to an individual service that can prove they are at the forefront of excellent care provision in Scotland. The winner will be a single service, regardless of the size of the organisation. The winning service will:

- **Provide evidence of sustained excellent practice, innovation and positive risk-taking (including evidence of current Care Inspectorate grades of 5 or 6)**
- **Provide examples of a positive culture within the service, including how service users and carers have a voice**
- **Supply testimonials from service users, families, staff, external partners and/or the local authority.**
- **Demonstrate how the organisation is reshaping and responding to national and local policy drivers.**

*This category is open to services registered to provide care at home or housing support.*

**Please note:** *If you submitting a nominator to this award category, you must submit at least 2 nominations in other award categories.*



## Positive Impact Award

Each year, Scottish Care wishes to recognise people who have made a significant and sustained contribution to the care at home and housing support sector. This may be either in relation to an individual service or more widely within the sector. The winner will:

- **Have worked in the sector for a significant period of time**
- **Evidence how their sustained input has positively benefited individuals, services and/or the sector more generally**
- **Provide a background to their career within the sector**
- **Evidence how they embody the qualities we aspire to in the delivery of care.**

*This category is open to individuals only.*



**For further support with making a nomination, please contact Scottish Care:**

 **email:** [awards@scottishcare.org](mailto:awards@scottishcare.org)

 **web:** [www.scottishcare.org](http://www.scottishcare.org)

 **telephone:** 01292 270240

## **How to enter**

If you are at all in doubt about what is being looked for in relation to any of the Award categories, please get in touch with us. We want as many people as possible to take part in this celebration of the hard work and dedication shown by those who work across the sector.

**Entries should be submitted via the Scottish Care website.**

You may also request and complete a hard copy entry form. Please email [awards@scottishcare.org](mailto:awards@scottishcare.org)

Emailed entries typed on A4 paper are acceptable provided they are submitted by email to the above address and the Awards guidance has been followed.

**We look forward to receiving your many entries and remember to return all completed entry forms by close of play on Monday 9 March 2026.**

## **Publicity**

**By entering the Scottish Care Awards, entrants agree to the contents of their submission being used in media releases and event literature.**