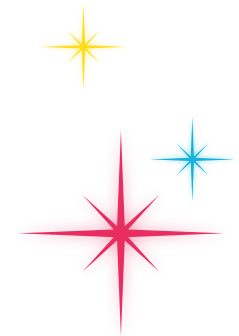


Great British  
Care Awards



# FAQs

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**Welcome to the Care Awards FAQs!  
Here, you'll find answers to the most common  
questions about the nomination process, judging,  
ceremony, and everything in between.**

**If you need further assistance,  
please feel free to get in touch.**

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL CARE

**[www.care-awards.co.uk](http://www.care-awards.co.uk)**



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## You have become a Great British Care Awards Regional Finalist!



**We are delighted to welcome you to the next stage of the process for the Great British Care Awards. Being named a Regional Finalist is a fantastic achievement and a true recognition of your dedication to the health and social care sector. You should feel incredibly proud.**

Your nomination reflects the exceptional compassion, professionalism, and commitment you bring to your role every day. If you would like to read your nomination statement, please contact the team member who informed you of your regional finalist status. They will be happy to share this with you.

If you believe you have been entered into the incorrect category or region, please let the team member who notified you know as soon as possible so we can make any necessary adjustments.

Thank you for the incredible work you do within the care sector. We look forward to meeting you at your virtual judging session and learning more about your inspiring journey.

# JUDGING PROCESS

## What is the process for the Judging Day?

If you're selected as a finalist, you'll be invited to attend a **virtual judging day** via Zoom. Finalists are allocated a **30-minute interview slot** where a social care professional will ask you around 5 questions about your role, contributions, and why you stand out.

**Please note:** If you believe you have been entered in the incorrect category or region, please inform the team member who notified you as soon as possible.

- **Friendly and informal:**

The interview will be conversational.

- **Fixed schedule:**

Interviews are non-reschedulable, so please attend your assigned time slot.

- **Team interviews:**

Up to five team members can attend together.

- **Results:**

Winners and highly commended finalists will be announced at the awards ceremony and online the following business day.

- **No In-Person Interviews:**

All interviews will be conducted virtually via Zoom, and there is **no option to attend in person**.

Judging dates will be announced soon. Keep an eye on the website for updates.

If you have experience in social care and want to be part of a passionate community of care professionals dedicated to recognizing excellence and promoting best practices across the sector, see the information pack for judging for more information.



# TOP TIPS FROM JUDGES

## Palvi Dodhia, COO, Serene Care

*"We know it's natural to feel nervous, but reaching this stage means someone truly believes in you. Treat this as a chance to showcase your achievements and your organisation's impact."*

## Charity Hayley King, Registered Manager, All Care

*"I carefully reviewed the criteria for each category and matched my experiences to the specific requirements. This helped me ensure that my nomination fully addressed what was being asked."*

## Kam Gill, Managing Director, Walfinch Oxfordshire

*"**Focus on Impact:** Emphasise how your work has made a tangible difference—whether through the care you provide, the support you offer colleagues, or the challenges you've overcome. **Prepare Examples:** Come prepared with concrete examples that demonstrate your skills, problem-solving abilities, and commitment to care. This will make your responses more authentic and compelling."*

## Bethan Evans, Chief Executive, My Choice Healthcare Limited

*"Reflect on your role and its key responsibilities. Consider the specific category you've been shortlisted for and how your work aligns with it. Then, identify the key messages you want to convey to the interviewer that best highlight your strengths and contributions."*

## Paul Dixon, Hospitality Manager, Caring Homes

*"Don't treat it as a job interview, we appreciate you want to be professional, but a little humour and kindness radiating through makes a huge difference. If you have any health issues that you feel may require you having extra time at the interview, contact the event organisers immediately when shortlisted so extra time if available can be built into the day. If you are nominated for a team award, please ensure that more than one person represents your team—whether senior or junior. Judges want to see and hear from multiple team members to get a full sense of your collective effort. As a judge, one of my biggest frustrations is expecting to see a care team on screen, only to find a single nurse talking about how great their team is! Team awards are about showcasing the group, so let your team shine together."*

## Rob McLaughlin, Operations Director, Cura Care

*"**Practice** – Take some time to practice an interview style with a colleague, nerves can be something that throws you off your game. Taking the time to speak about your category with someone will help to relax you and create a more open discussion once you come to the judging panel. **Experience** – Utilise people from your group who may have been interviewed before and ask how their experience was before coming to your interview. **Set up** – Try to arrive for your interview early this way you can relax and ensure you have the full allotted time to discuss your nomination with the judges. **Confidence** – Believe in yourself, someone within your group has taken the time to nominate you for the award. Be proud of this and help the judge to understand all the wonderful things you are doing on a day to day. **Answers** – There are no wrong answers, having multiple examples is great. This exercise is about how we best can get to know you as an individual, team or company so try to tell us everything you can you never know what will separate you from the crowd"*

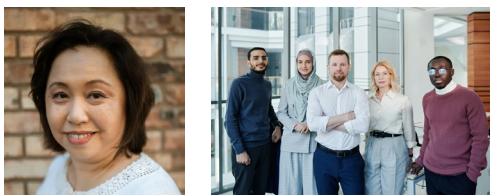


# FURTHER DETAILS

## What should I submit for my photo and biography?

- **Photo:** A high-resolution, well-lit image (headshot for individuals, group photo for teams, logo for organisations). If not submitted by the deadline, your organisations logo will be used.

Here are examples:



- **Biography:** The bio needed depends on your award type:

**Individual Award:** Focus on your personal experience and achievements.

**Example:** *“Jane Doe is a dedicated social care worker with over 10 years of experience supporting vulnerable individuals and families. Specialising in mental health and community outreach, she is committed to empowering clients through personalised care plans. Jane’s compassionate approach and strong advocacy skills ensure clients receive the support they need.”*

**Team Award:** Highlight the team’s collaboration and impact.

**Example:** *“The Sunrise Support Team is a dedicated group of care professionals providing high-quality, personalised support for older adults. Through a compassionate and collaborative approach, they promote dignity, independence, and wellbeing. Their commitment to person-centred care and strong community values makes them an outstanding and trusted team in the care sector.”*

**Employer/Organisation Award:** Give an overview of your organisation’s values, culture, and care quality.

**Example:** *“Sunrise Care Group provides high-quality, person-centred care for older adults. The organisation invests in staff wellbeing, training, and progression, creating a supportive workplace where people feel valued. With compassionate leadership and a focus on dignity in care, they are recognised as an outstanding and trusted employer in the sector.”*

- Please submit your photo and biography to the individual who notified you about becoming a finalist. If these are not received by the specified deadline, your photo and bio will not be included in the program.



## How to book your place at the ceremony

Finalists will receive a booking form along with their finalist communication. Alternatively, you can request a booking form by emailing [info@care-awards.co.uk](mailto:info@care-awards.co.uk).

To secure your place, fill out the form and submit it to [catherine@care-awards.co.uk](mailto:catherine@care-awards.co.uk). Once received, a member of our accounts team will confirm your booking and process payment.

## What's the process leading up to the awards ceremony?

After your booking form is submitted, our team will confirm your place and coordinate payment. You'll then receive a **guest details form**, which asks for the names of those attending and any dietary or special requirements - if not stated, a meat option will be served.

Please submit this form to your point of contact within **14 days**. If we do not receive the completed form by the deadline, name cards will be left blank, and we cannot guarantee accommodation for special requests. However, your booking will remain confirmed.

Please note all bookings are non-refundable. If an unexpected situation arises, please email a member of our team as soon as possible to inform us that you won't be able to attend.



## And where are the awards ceremony taking place?

Here are the dates and locations for this year's Care Awards ceremonies:

### 2026

- **East of England** MK Dons – 30th October 2026
- **Yorkshire and Humber** Royal Armouries, Leeds – 6th November 2026
- **West Midlands** ICC Birmingham – 7th November 2026
- **Wales** Cardiff Holland House Hotel – 11th November 2026
- **North West** Kimpton, Manchester – 14th November 2026
- **Scotland** Voco Grand Central Glasgow by IHG – 16th November 2026
- **South West** Ashton Gate, Bristol – 19th November 2026
- **South East** Double Tree, Brighton – 20th November 2026
- **London** Hilton Bankside – 21st November 2026
- **East Midlands** EMCC, Nottingham – 23rd November 2026
- **North East** Grand Hotel Gosforth Park, Newcastle – 26th November 2026



## Evening schedule

- **7:00 pm** – Drinks reception
- **7:30 pm** – Three-course dinner and entertainment
- **10:00 pm** – Awards ceremony begins
- **11:00 pm** – Ceremony ends, followed by live music
- **12:00 am** – Carriages

A photographer will be capturing the highlights of the evening, and you'll be able to retrieve these photos the following day at [www.eventphotogallery.co.uk](http://www.eventphotogallery.co.uk).

## Dress code

The dress code is **Black Tie**. We'd love everyone to dress to impress as we celebrate the amazing achievements in the care sector.

### Black Tie usually means:

**For men:** A black tuxedo, white formal shirt, black bow tie or tie, and polished formal shoes.

**For women:** A formal evening gown, an elegant cocktail dress, or smart formalwear with dressy shoes or flats.

## Post-awards ceremony

- **Results:** Winners and highly commended finalists will be announced online in the days following the event.
- **Graphic:** A member of the GBCA events team will contact you to congratulate you on your achievement and provide a graphic for use on your social media channels.
- **GBCA Nationals:** Winners automatically progress to the GBCA Nationals in Early the following year at the ICC Birmingham. Further details will be sent closer to the event.

If you have any additional questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact us at [info@care-awards.co.uk](mailto:info@care-awards.co.uk).

**We look forward to celebrating the best in care with you!**

