

The Prospers 2026

Essex Care Sector Awards

Award Category Criteria

Below is the Category Award Criteria for the 15 awards up for grabs. Please supply additional evidence where necessary to support your nominations. You can apply for as many categories as you wish, please use a **separate Nomination Form** for each category.

Remember the judges will base their decisions only on your completed nomination form and any supplementary evidence provided with it.

The Awards are open to all care providers (as stated in the terms and conditions) who deliver a care service to adults in Essex County Council's Local Authority geographical boundaries.

Nominations are welcome from Residential Older People Care Homes, Nursing Homes, AWD/Learning Disability services (Residential and Supported Living), Domiciliary Care Agencies, Extra Care Schemes and Day Centres.

Nominations close 5pm on 10th July 2025, Good Luck

Please send your completed Nomination form via email to TheProspers@essex.gov.uk

Terms and conditions apply; please see pages 8 to 10 of this criteria.

Outstanding Carer/Support Worker Award

This category is open to all providers to nominate an individual who consistently provides good quality care, compassion, creativity, dedication and has a willingness to learn new skills and go the extra mile. Nominations can include those new to care who have brought a new dimension to their role through innovation or dedication.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following;

- Why you think they should be awarded Outstanding Carer/Support Worker?
- How does this person make a substantive yet unrecognised contribution?
- How has the person made a significant difference to the people you support?
- How has the nominee exceeded what would normally be required in their job?
- Describe how ambitious, creative or innovative this person is?

Outstanding Care Sector Nurse Award

This award recognises and celebrates nurses employed in Nursing Homes, who go above and beyond their everyday roles to provide excellent care, leadership, and inspiration to their colleagues and residents. An individual or team of Nurses who strive to be a role model for others whilst achieving the highest standard in their area of clinical practice and making a significant contribution to the quality of care received by Residents and their families.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following.

- Why you think they should be awarded Outstanding Care Sector Nurse?
- How does this person or Nursing team make a substantive yet unrecognised contribution?
- How has the person or Nursing team made a significant difference to the people you support?
- How has the nominee(s) exceeded what would normally be required in their job?
- Describe how ambitious, creative or innovative this person is?

Unsung hero Award

This category is open to all providers who would like to nominate their unsung hero, the person behind the scenes who works tirelessly, consistently demonstrating great dedication. They may not be as publicly recognised as others but greatly contributes to the smooth running of the service. This could be domestic staff, Kitchen assistants, Chefs, maintenance, administration or office staff, volunteers, families, or individuals you support. Previous winners have included the maintenance person, a resident in a care home and volunteers.

Submissions should include one or more of the following elements.

- What makes them an unsung hero?
- How have they made a substantive yet unrecognised contribution?
- How has the person made a significant difference to the people you support?
- What do they do that demonstrates ambition, dedication, creativity, or innovation?

Outstanding Leadership Award

This category is open to all providers to nominate an individual who has provided great leadership and support, is able to communicate well, acknowledges and encourages staff to make a positive contribution to the service and has had a positive impact on the recruitment and retention of staff and is an inspiration to the staff team. This could be a manager, deputy, senior carer/support worker, team lead, care co-ordinator, nurse, or area manager.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following;

- Explain how the person drives continuous improvement in their service.
- How does this person give staff the opportunity to put their ideas in to practice?
- How does this person empower their staff to drive forward innovation within their service?
- How does this person support staff well and encourage the continuous professional development of their staff?
- Describe how they lead by example and always demonstrates good practice.
- Tell us what makes this leader stand out from others?

Team of the year Award

This category is open to all providers who would like to nominate a team of people for their outstanding contribution to care services. A team who has gelled together and worked as one to deliver the best outcomes for the people they provide a service to. They have demonstrated outstanding commitment and are open and innovative in their approach.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following.

- Tell us what makes this team outstanding?
- Describe what makes this team different from others?
- How have they been innovative?
- How do they demonstrate commitment and team working?
- Demonstrate how the team has improved outcomes, wellbeing and quality of life for the people they support.

PROSPER Champions Award

Open only to Residential Care Homes who are part of the Prosper project

This category is open to care home's who are on the Provider Quality Innovation Team's PROSPER project where their PROSPER Champion or team of Champions have made a significant impact on resident's quality of life by using the PROSPER methodology and tools. Whether using new initiatives and small acts of change or sustaining existing initiatives we are looking for an individual champion or team of Champions who regularly use PROSPER methodology to drive change in their home.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following;

- What have they implemented as part of PROSPER and how has it had an impact on improving residents 'quality of life'?
- How has the PROSPER Champion(s) used the PROSPER methodology and resources to improve outcomes for residents?
- Describe how the Champion/s have made a significant difference?
- Describe how the individual or team have exceeded what would normally be required in their job?
- Describe how ambitious or creative or innovative this person/team are.
- Describe how their engagement with the PROSPER team, reading the newsletters, attending workshops and champion days have positively impacted the home.

Ageing Well for Adults with Disabilities Award

This award is open to all providers who would like to nominate a person or team who have demonstrated a proactive and person-centred approach to supporting individuals with a learning disability (with or without Autism) who have been identified as ageing. They should be able to evidence a good understanding of the challenges the adults face because of growing older, including health and social issues. They should also demonstrate what actions they have put in place to support them at this time in their life and how this has improved their wellbeing.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following:

- Outline how you identified the individual/s as ageing.
- Tell us how you have demonstrated a proactive and person-centred approach.
- Describe any specific actions you have taken to support them as they age.
- Describe any obstacles barriers you had to overcome.
- Detail how your interventions have improved the wellbeing of the people you provide a service to.
- Tell us how the culture within your setting has changed to focus on a more person-centred approach to support as individuals grow older.

PQIM Award for Adults with Disabilities

This award recognises care providers participating in the **Provider Quality Innovation Mentoring (PQIM)** programme who support adults with learning disabilities and/or Autism, and who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to quality improvement and innovation.

It celebrates individuals or teams who have embraced the mentoring, workshops, tools, and learning opportunities offered by the Provider Quality Innovation Team, and used them to make a measurable, meaningful difference to the quality of life of the people they support. Nominees will have shown a strong commitment to embedding PQIM learning into everyday practice. Not only improving outcomes for adults with learning disabilities and/or Autism, but inspiring colleagues, strengthening team culture, and driving sustainable service improvement.

Submissions should demonstrate:

- **Innovative impact:** How you have implemented PQIM-inspired ideas, projects or changes to enhance the daily lived experience, wellbeing or independence of adults.
- **Effective use of PQIM tools:** How mentoring sessions, workshops, champion development, tools, or resources from the PQIM programme have informed practice, built skills, or shaped positive change.
- **Tangible difference:** Clear examples or measures that show improved outcomes, experiences, or service quality as a direct result of PQIM learning.

- Engagement and learning: How nominees actively participated in PQIM activities such as workshops, webinars, mentoring, and reflective sessions, and then used this learning to strengthen their approach.
- Going above and beyond: How individuals or teams exceeded their usual roles to embed lasting, positive change.

Community Partnership Award

This category aims to recognise a provider who has worked in partnership with the community and/or other organisations, such as Health and social care to achieve the best outcomes for individual(s), integrating their service into the local community or adopting initiatives that encourage intergenerational interactions or support the wider Health and Social Care system.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following.

- Detail what you did and how you approached this?
- Tell us about any obstacles barriers you had to overcome?
- Tell us about the Services/Community who were involved?
- Describe how this improved wellbeing for the people you support?
- Explain how the partnerships came about?
- Include any feedback from the people you provide a service to or their families/friends.

Dementia Care Award

This award is open to all providers who would like to nominate a person or team who have demonstrated a proactive and person-centred approach to supporting individuals living with Dementia and is able to evidence a good understanding of the challenges they face and how they have improved their wellbeing.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following:

- Outline what you have implemented?
- Tell us how you have demonstrated a proactive and person-centred approach.
- Describe any obstacles barriers you had to overcome.
- Explain what makes your approach different and successful to what has been tried before?
- Detail how it has improved the wellbeing of the people you provide a service to with case studies and examples.
- Tell us how the culture within your setting has changed to focus on a more person-centred approach to support.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Award

This award recognises a provider/organisation or individual who invests in the Mental Health and Wellbeing of their staff, clients, families and communities. An organisation or individual who has made a positive impact on supporting others who struggle with their mental health. Who values and encourages an open and positive culture to mental health and puts the wellbeing of others first.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following;

- Tell us what you do to support Mental Health and Wellbeing in the organisation?
- Outline examples of the impact your support has had on others.
- Provide evidence of how Mental Health and wellbeing is prioritised.
- Evidence how you regularly check in with employees and/or clients to see how they're getting on and think about what might be causing them stress.
- Do you create space for staff to ask questions and raise issues, and give them permission to talk about home as well as work issues if they wish.

Activities & Wellbeing Award

This award recognises the provider/individual or team who have taken a proactive approach to improving individual's wellbeing regularly through meaningful activities that are person centred. Creating an environment where individuals are engaged, stimulated, and fulfilled. This may include where an individual, living in their own home, attending a day service or in a residential care setting, has been enabled to maintain an interest or activity that is important to them.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following;

- Outline what have you done, telling us about the innovative activities you have created.
- Tell us how you have managed to maintain an individual's pre-existing interest or hobbies or supported them to find new interests or activities?
- Tell us how this has improved the wellbeing of the people you support including case studies and examples.

Rehabilitation and Reablement Award

Open to providers in the community who deliver a service to people in their own home.

This award recognises providers who deliver exceptional, person-centred care that enables individuals to regain skills, confidence, and independence, whether that is following a hospital admission, presentation to Accident & Emergency, recovery from a fall or a period of illness that has resulted in a loss of skills and confidence. This category is open to providers in the community such as Domiciliary Care Agencies, delivering short-term or longer-term interventions in a person's home, designed to support recovery, reablement, enablement or prevention of readmission above and beyond their normal duties.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following:

- Evidence of a Person Centre approach which includes individual needs, goals and outcomes clearly identified and regularly reviewed, with the individual's active involvement in decisions about their care and recovery, including family where appropriate.
- Clear examples of how the team or staff member promotes independence and has supported individuals to regain or maximise their independence, empowering them to build confidence and skills. Explain how this is above and beyond the team or staff members normal duties.
- Demonstrate the outcomes and impact this has had for the individual(s) and the wider system such as admission avoidance, reduction in hospital admissions or reduced care calls. Please provide examples.
- Evidence safe, effective care delivered in line with best practice and demonstrates collaboration with health & social care professionals
- Provide examples of team / individual expertise, training and compassionate, dignified care demonstrating innovative or evidence-based approaches to enhance rehabilitation; reablement and long-term independence.

Palliative Care Award

This award recognises an individual or provider who provide a high-quality, person centred approach to palliative care which optimises quality of life and recognises how choices made by the person being cared for and their family are central to the service and care that is delivered. Providing care, support, and comfort to those in the last year and last days of life.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following:

- How the individual or service has made a real difference to the wellbeing and comfort to individuals in their end-of-life journey.
- How they have worked in partnership with other services to enable a true person-centred approach

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Award

This award is open to all provider organisations and individuals who promote the values of equality, diversity and inclusion. Demonstrating a commitment to the spirit of equality, diversity and inclusion, through behaviour, positive interaction, leadership, and exceptional efforts to promote an inclusive environment for all. Promoting a culture of honesty and sensitivity when talking about difficult conversations, creating a sense of safety and openness for staff, the people you provide a service to and their families.

Submissions should include evidence to support the following.

- Tell us about your approach to equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- How have the values of equality, diversity and inclusion been promoted.
- How has it made a difference to individual(s), staff, families, and the people you provide a service to

Nominations close 5pm on 10th July 2024, Good Luck

Please send your completed Nomination form via email to TheProspers@essex.gov.uk

Terms and conditions for Essex Care Sector Awards: The Prospers 2026

This competition is organised by Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. CM1 1LX

Essex County Council reserves the right to cancel or amend the Competition or terms and conditions without notice in the event of any factor outside Essex County Council's reasonable control. Any changes will be posted either within these terms and conditions or the Competition Notice.

A copy of the terms and conditions may also be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Essex Care Sector Awards, Provider Quality Innovation Team, E1, County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford. CM1 1QH.

Rules:

1. **Entries should be submitted by email to theprospers@essex.gov.uk**
2. Opening date for entries is **1st June 2026**
3. Closing date is **5pm on 10th July 2026** – Entries received after this time shall not be accepted;
4. Entry is restricted to Providers of:
 - a) Residential Care homes & Nursing Homes;
 - b) Domiciliary Care agencies;
 - c) Supported living schemes;
 - d) Extra Care Schemes
 - e) Day care services

that provide services to **Adults** (for the avoidance of doubt this includes the provision of services to Older People) within the Essex County Council Local Authority geographical boundaries.

5. Submissions must reflect innovative achievements that are the direct result of current implemented practice by the provider (as listed in point 4 above) which is evidenced by a positive impact on those people they support.

6. Submissions can be supported with supplementary evidence in several ways including data, anecdotal evidence, photographs and testimonials from related parties. Any personal information including photographs must either be anonymised or submitted with full permission of the person identified and will be subject to scrutiny under General Data Protection Regulations.
7. Submissions which contain any work that has been specifically and directly suggested, created or implemented by a member of staff, past or present, who either now currently works or has worked in the last six months for Essex County Council must be declared as it could potentially have a conflict of interest or could be seen as an unfair advantage.
8. Any such declarations do not prohibit entry of nominations, but it will be at the discretion of the Judging panel as to whether there is an unfair advantage or conflict of interest and reserve the right to disqualify.
9. No responsibility is taken by Essex County Council for entries that are illegible, misdirected, lost for technical or other reasons.
10. By entering the competition, entrants are deemed to have read and understood these rules and agree to be bound by them.
11. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Wednesday 2nd December 2026.
12. Winners will receive an award trophy and a certificate identifying the category they have won.
13. Submission of an entry indicates approval by the entrant to be named in publicity (although further permission will be sought in the case of photographs, should they be sought by the media or Essex County Council).
14. Essex County Council reserves the right to disqualify any entrant if serious quality concerns, where citizens of Essex are deemed to be or have been at risk, are raised about the entrant or organisation they work for, including if the outcome of safeguarding investigations are still impending.
15. Essex County Council reserves the right to disqualify any entrant if the entry contains any illegal or offensive content or it has reasonable grounds to believe the entrant has breached any of the Rules.
16. No cash or other prize alternative is available.

Data Protection:

Essex County Council recognises that your privacy is important to you, and we use the latest technologies & best practices to secure all personal information. Essex aims to always

preserve your privacy and will not disclose your personal information to third parties unless it is required to do so by law or it, in good faith, believes that such action is necessary to:

- Comply with the law or with legal process
- Protect and defend our rights and property
- Protect against misuse or unauthorised use of this website
- Protect the personal safety or property of our customers or the public (among other things, this means that if you provide false registration information or attempt to pose as someone else, information about you may be disclosed as part of any investigation into your actions)

All personal information shall be destroyed at the end of the competition and shall not be stored by Essex County Council or passed to any third parties unless required to do so by law or it, in good faith, believes that such action is necessary to comply with the above bulleted points.