

Guide to the awards



MOONDANCE
CANCER AWARDS

About the Awards

The Moondance Cancer Awards celebrate and spotlight brilliant people across NHS Wales and its partners who deliver, lead, and innovate cancer services.

In hosting these awards, we recognise the achievements of individuals and teams working across all parts of the cancer pathway – from detection & diagnosis to treatment and ongoing care – and showcase the innovation and improvement driving better outcomes for people affected by cancer across Wales.

This guide sets out the award categories and criteria, eligibility, nomination process and key dates to support you in submitting a nomination.

Key Dates

- **Nominations OPEN**
Monday 23 February 2026
- **Nominations CLOSE**
Wednesday 15 April 2026
- **Shortlist announced**
Thursday 23 April 2026
- **Celebration and Awards Night**
Thursday 11 June 2026



Award Categories Overview

Achievement Awards

- Better Patient Experience
- Working Together
- Collaborating With Partners
- Patient & Public Participation & Involvement

Innovation & Improvement Awards

- Detection & Diagnosis
- Cancer Treatment
- Cancer Workforce

Excellence Awards

- Cancer Services Leadership & Delivery
- Nursing, Clinical & Diagnostic Practice
- Medical



Eligibility

Who can be nominated

- Individuals, teams, or collaborations working in:
 - NHS Wales, or
 - a related service or organisation contributing to cancer services in Wales
- Please check the individual award descriptions to ensure the nomination is submitted under the most appropriate category

Who can nominate

- Nominations may be submitted by colleagues working within NHS Wales or partner organisations.
- You may nominate yourself, your own team, or a wider collaboration you are part of.
- You may also nominate individuals or teams whose work you are aware of, even if you were not directly involved.
- Nominations should be made by individuals with a professional understanding of the work being recognised.
- There is no limit to the number of nominations you may submit.
- The awards are not open to nominations from patients or members of the public.

What can be recognised

- Awards may recognise:
 - individual contribution or excellence
 - established teams or services
 - wider groups or collaborations involving multiple organisations
- Some awards are only open to individuals and/or teams working within NHS Wales. This will be clearly indicated within the relevant award category.
- Where multiple nominations are received for the same individual or team, these will be considered together during judging.

Timeframe

Nominations for the 2026 awards should relate to activity from July 2024 onwards, or where the impact or outcomes of activity have occurred since this time.

Achievement Awards

This category recognises individuals, teams and collaborations that have enabled positive change for people affected by cancer.



Better Patient Experience

This award recognises an individual or team that has delivered a clear and meaningful improvement in how people experience cancer-related services.

This may include improvements to how care is delivered, communicated, or coordinated from the patient's perspective, and may relate to any stage of the pathway.

Working Together

This award recognises collaborative working within NHS Wales that has enabled better outcomes for people affected by cancer.

This may involve people in different NHS teams, departments, specialties, health boards or national NHS organisations working together to address shared challenges in cancer care at any stage of the patient pathway.

Collaborating With Partners

This award spotlights collaboration between NHS Wales and external partner organisations that has delivered clear benefit for people affected by cancer.

This may involve charities, industry partners, voluntary organisations, or other external organisations, and may relate to work delivered at any scale – from hyper-local initiatives to regional or national collaborations – across any stage of the patient pathway.

Patient & Public Participation & Involvement

This award recognises an individual, group or team who have meaningfully worked alongside patients, carers, or members of the public to improve cancer services or activity.

Nominations may reflect work led by NHS teams, partner organisations, or collaborations, where lived experience has informed decisions, influenced design or delivery, or contributed to positive change in cancer services either locally or nationally.

Innovation and Improvement Awards

This category celebrates individuals and teams who have delivered ambitious and effective innovation or improvement within cancer services, resulting in meaningful improvements for people affected by cancer.



Innovation & Improvement: Detection & Diagnosis

This award recognises innovation or improvement in the detection and diagnosis of cancer, resulting in better outcomes or experiences for people affected by cancer.

This may include new approaches, tools, or ways of working, as well as significant improvements to existing diagnostic pathways.

Innovation & Improvement: Cancer Treatment

This award recognises innovation or improvement in cancer treatment, resulting in better outcomes or experiences for people affected by cancer.

This may include advances in surgery, oncology, or other aspects of cancer treatment, as well as improvements in how treatment is accessed, delivered, or optimised.

Innovation & Improvement: Cancer Workforce

This award recognises innovation or improvement in the cancer workforce, resulting in better outcomes or experiences for people affected by cancer.

This may include new roles or ways of working, education and training that enables service improvement, improvements in how staff are supported or developed, or changes to workforce models that better meet the demands of cancer services across the pathway.

Excellence Awards

The category spotlights individuals whose leadership, coordination, and day-to-day practice have driven meaningful change in cancer services, resulting in better outcomes and experiences for people affected by cancer in Wales. Individuals at all levels below Executive / Medical Director are eligible.



Excellence: Cancer Services Leadership & Delivery

This award recognises excellence by individuals whose leadership, coordination or delivery has made a significant difference to how cancer services operate and perform.

It is intended for people who play a hands-on role in leading, coordinating or delivering services that are critical to cancer pathways – including across diagnostics, treatment, operational delivery or supporting services – and whose work has resulted in sustained improvements to care, access or outcomes.

Excellence: Nursing, Clinical & Diagnostic Practice

This award recognises excellence by individuals whose expertise, initiative or leadership in practice has led to meaningful improvements in cancer care.

It is intended for nurses, diagnostic professionals, allied health professionals and other non-medical roles involved in delivering cancer services, whose work has enabled or influenced change, improved pathways, or introduced new approaches that have made a clear difference to care, access or outcomes for people affected by cancer.

Excellence: Medical

This award recognises excellence by a doctor whose clinical practice and day-to-day leadership have made a meaningful difference to cancer care.

This may include using clinical expertise to lead or influence change, improve standards of care, support and develop colleagues, champion high-quality practice, or shape how cancer services are delivered through judgement, credibility and example.



How to nominate

Nominations are open from

Monday 23 February to Wednesday 15 April 2026.

Nomination form:

moondance-cancer.wales/awards

Submit completed forms to:

awards@moondance-cancer.wales

You may submit nominations for yourself or others. There is no limit to the number of nominations you may submit.

If multiple nominations are received for the same individual, team or collaboration, these will be considered together during judging.

If you are unsure which category best fits your nomination, please choose the closest match – the judging panel will consider nominations in context.

Celebration & Awards Night

The Moondance Cancer Awards winners will be announced as part of our Celebration and Awards night on Thursday 11 June 2026, at Depot Cardiff.

All shortlisted nominees and their nominators will receive complimentary tickets to the event, which includes local street food vendors, live music and celebrity host, Owain Wyn Evans.

Shortlisted nominees will be announced on Thursday 23 April 2026 and personal invitations to the Celebration and Awards night will follow via email.

How Nominations are Assessed

Nominations will be reviewed by an independent judging panel with experience across cancer services, improvement, leadership and partnership working.

Judges will consider how clearly the nomination aligns to the award category, the difference made for people affected by cancer, and the strength of evidence or examples provided, proportionate to the scale of the work.

Judging will take account of the context in which the work was delivered, recognising that impact may look different across roles, settings and services.

Top Tips for a Strong Nomination

- **Tell the story** – Use the nomination to explain what was done, why it mattered, and what difference it made. Help the judges understand the context as well as the impact.
- **Focus on the award category** – Shape your nomination around the specific award criteria – a strong nomination clearly aligns the work to what that award is recognising
- **Be specific about impact** – Wherever possible, support your nomination with evidence or examples – this might include data, feedback, outcomes, learning, or changes in practice. Not all impact needs to be quantitative.
- **Be clear about who was involved** – If nominating a team or collaboration, explain who contributed and how people worked together. This helps judges understand the scale and nature of the work.
- **Ongoing work is welcome** – Projects or initiatives do not need to be complete to be nominated. What matters is the difference made to date.
- **Showcase the achievements** – Clarity is more helpful than modesty.

FAQs



Who can submit a nomination?

Colleagues working within NHS Wales or partner organisations may submit nominations. You may nominate yourself, your own team, a collaboration you have been part of or others whose work you are aware of.

The awards are not open to nominations from patients or members of the public.

Who can be nominated?

Individuals, teams or collaborations working within NHS Wales, or within a related service or organisation contributing to cancer services in Wales, may be nominated.

Please refer to the individual award descriptions to ensure the nomination is submitted under the most appropriate category.

Can I submit more than one nomination?

Yes. You may submit multiple nominations, including nominations across different award categories.

Please complete a separate nomination form for each submission.

Can I nominate myself or my own team?

Yes. Self-nominations and nominations for your own team or collaboration are welcome.

Does the work need to be completed to be nominated?

No. Activity, projects or initiatives do not need to be complete.

Nominations should relate to work undertaken from July 2024 onwards, or where the impact or outcomes have occurred since this time.

What matters is the difference made to date, and the evidence or examples you can provide to demonstrate progress or impact.

What type of evidence should be included?

Evidence may include data, outcomes, feedback, learning, changes in practice, or other relevant examples.

Not all impact needs to be quantitative, and the judging panel will consider evidence proportionate to the scale and context of the work.

What happens if multiple nominations are received for the same individual or team?

Where multiple nominations are received for the same individual, team or collaboration, these will be considered together during the judging process.

How are nominations assessed?

Nominations are reviewed by an independent judging panel with experience across cancer services, improvement, leadership and partnership working.

Judges consider alignment to the award category, the difference made for people affected by cancer, and the strength of evidence provided, taking account of context and scale.

Will shortlisted nominees be invited to the Celebration & Awards Night?

Yes. All shortlisted nominees will receive complimentary tickets to the Celebration and Awards Night on Thursday 11 June 2026 at Depot Cardiff.

I have a question that isn't covered here – who should I contact?

If you have any questions about the awards or nomination process, please contact the team at awards@moondance-cancer.wales



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**Celebrating brilliant people
and brave ideas**

moondance-cancer.wales/awards