



Scottish Social Services Awards Categories

There are ten categories. You can apply for more than one award, but each entry must answer the criteria we are looking for specifically for the category, as outlined below.

You can enter yourself, your team or organisation. Or you can nominate an individual, team or organisation, but you must obtain their consent. Categories 2 and 8 are for individuals only.

SUPPORTING THE WORKFORCE

Category 1: *Living the codes*

Introduction: Have you succeeded in bringing the Scottish Social Services Council's (SSSC) codes of practice to life in social services? Have you gone above and beyond compliance to make a positive impact by using the codes?

We are looking for:

1. creative approaches to promoting and using the codes which show that you are living the values and principles which underpin them
2. evidence of how you are using the codes to make a difference to staff or people using services
3. a real understanding of what the codes mean and what can be achieved by following the good practice they are encouraging

Open to: Individuals, teams or organisations

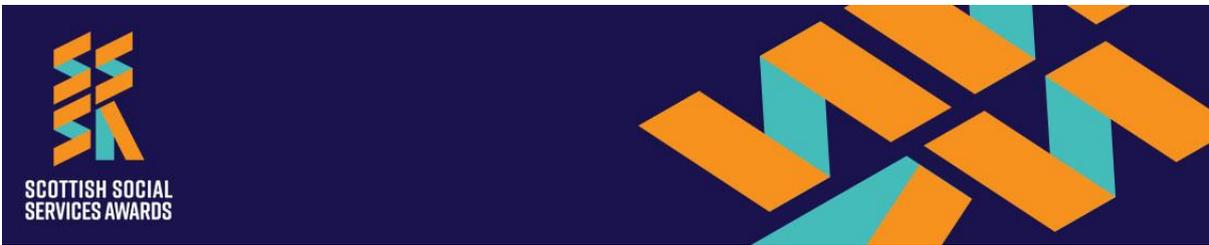
Category 2: *Bright spark*

Introduction: Are you, or someone you know, new to social services but have already made a real difference to someone's life? Do you have a positive attitude? Do you take the time to understand what the people you support want and need, helping them to achieve their potential?

We are looking for someone who:

1. makes a difference through their approach and way of doing things.
2. uses ideas and good practice to create results, rather than just working extra hours.
3. goes 'the extra mile' to make a difference to the people they care for or work with.

Open to: A student on placement; a career changer joining the sector; a new entrant; who has been in post for no more than three years but is producing positive results.



Category 3: An enlightened approach

Introduction: How do you recognise the importance of learning and development within the workforce? At times when budgets may be stretched, are you thinking creatively and working collaboratively to make the most of training opportunities? Are you learning from the people we support, care for and work with?

We are looking for:

1. fresh and innovative approaches to learning.
2. the best examples of supporting and encouraging staff to learn and grow.
3. approaches that allow staff to learn from the people they support.
4. learning and development which enables people to do the right things and not just follow procedure.

Open to: Individuals, teams or organisations

UNDERSTANDING SERVICE QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE

Category 4: Silo buster

Introduction: This is about joined up thinking, working and delivering. Do you take the time to understand your colleagues, agree what each of you can contribute - and follow that through to make a difference to people's lives? At times of integration and change these skills, which break through organisational barriers and cultures, are vital. It is not about sharing a space, but a common approach to support and care for people.

We are looking for:

1. professions and colleagues coming together and learning from each other to improve services
2. teams and individuals that acknowledge and play to each other's strengths.
3. budgets, location and governance not getting in the way of putting service user first

Open to: individuals, teams or organisations

Category 5: The courage to take a risk

Introduction: Have you, or someone you know, taken a risk; looked adversity in the face and stood up to make a change? Many successful business people failed initially but learned from that experience and went on to great things. This can happen in social services too. This award recognises those who have used experience to make positive changes



We are looking for people who have:

1. taken a risk and learned from the experience
2. taken on a project which wasn't working, valued it for the lessons learnt – and gone on to succeed.
3. approached challenges creatively, and in a way that breaks with convention, improving outcomes for services users.

Open to: individuals, teams or organisations

IMPROVING USE OF EVIDENCE

Category 6: *Making research & evidence real*

Introduction: Have you embedded the use of research or evidence into social services practice? Perhaps you have implemented an idea from a peer review journal, or interpreted the evaluation of a service, or used local feedback to change and improve how you do things. The emphasis is on looking at current practice and using research to challenge current thinking and find new ways of doing things; or doing new things.

We are looking for people who have:

1. used evidence of any type to inform the development of projects, making a difference to the people they are there to support.
2. developed innovative practice or approaches based on the evidence of what works.
3. localised good practice, making it work for them and the people they support

*Note: evidence can include research, practice, wisdom, service data or lived experience

Open to: individuals, teams or organisations

Category 7: *Thought leadership*

Introduction: Have you influenced thinking in your team, your organisation or more widely? By learning, discussing and trying new things have you brought about changes which benefit service users? Have you helped foster a culture where challenge is encouraged and practice is informed by what we can demonstrate works.

We are looking for people:

1. who have developed fresh thinking that has improved the experience of service users



2. that have shown leadership in promoting evidence based practice
3. who have successfully shared their thinking and experience, either within their organisation, or more widely

Open to: individuals, teams or organisations

PROMOTING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

Category 8: The untold story

Introduction: We are looking for an unsung hero; an inspiring individual who thinks that they are 'just doing their job' but whose approach makes it so much more than that? Do you or someone you know fit this description? We want to celebrate people who have helped make a positive difference for others either through their day-to-day work, or promoting the social services profession more widely.

We are looking for someone who:

1. is dedicated and courageous, doing the right things for the people they support.
2. values each person they work with as an individual and supports them in a way that works for that individual.
3. is an advocate for the most vulnerable.

Open to: individuals only

Category 9: Head above the parapet

Introduction: Have you spoken up about an issue, promoting social justice and championing the interests of the vulnerable. We want to encourage people to stand up for others and challenge rhetoric that can damage the interests of the people we work with.

We are looking for someone who has:

1. spoken out for the people they support and care about.
2. taken a risk by challenging what they believe is wrong.
3. has successfully campaigned for positive change

Open to: individuals, teams or organisations

POLICY FOCUS * SPECIAL AWARD

Category 10: Carers champion - supported by the National Carers Organisations in Scotland*



Introduction: Each year we will choose a special Policy Focus award. This year, in recognition of the Carers Act, we are celebrating the work of unpaid carers. We are looking for a person or team or organisation that has championed the rights of unpaid carers and helped secure positive change.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has gone the extra distance to give their support to unpaid carers in Scotland.
- Leads by example in promoting carer engagement, ensuring that carers are seen as equal partners in decision making.
- Has given exceptional support to unpaid carers to make a difference and bring about positive change.

Open to: individuals, teams or organisations who have championed the rights and interests of carers

** This award is sponsored by the National Carer Organisations in Scotland comprised of: Carers Scotland, Carers Trust Scotland, Coalition of Carers in Scotland, Crossroads Caring Scotland, MECOPP, Shared Care Scotland and the Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance.*

You have until the 28 February 2017 to submit your award. Click [here](#) for more details on how to apply. Good luck!