

28th November 2025

Inclusion North News

Inclusion North will share an important news story or tell you about their work every 2 weeks

Inclusion North Awards Gala 2025



On the 14th November we held our very first Awards Gala. We gave out 10 awards, had a 3-course meal and live entertainment.



The Gary Stark Citizenship Award for a person with a learning disability or autism who stands up for others and fairness.



This award was won by self-advocates **Anthony Howden, Sam Sellers and Jayne Miles.**



Volunteer of the Year for a volunteer who makes a difference in their community.



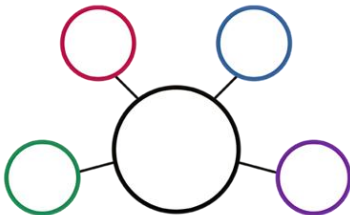
This award was won by **Abigail Garvey** who is a volunteer playworker at Darlington Association on Disability.



The Rising Star Award given to someone new to advocacy with a learning disability or autism, who is already making a difference.



This award was won by **Connor Lerwill** from Dance Action Zone Leeds, for supporting and encouraging all fellow dancers.



The Project Innovation Award is for a new idea or project that works well.



This award was won by **James Pearson, Michael Coultas and Nathan Rowbotham** who created the My Support Money Work project to help people better understand money.



The Non-Profit or Charity of the Year Award is for a community or campaign group that works for fairness and change involving people with lived experience.



The winner was **Little SENDsations** who provide SEND support to families in the North East.



The Partner of the Year Award for an organisation we work closely with who shares our values.



Melanie Waud and Adele Jackson from Harrogate NHS trust won for co-producing the Getting My Health Right For Me workshops.



The Provider of the Year Award is for a health, social care, support or advocacy organisation that helps people.



The winner was **Bluebell Apartments** who help people at risk of hospital admission by providing community care accommodation.



The Going the Extra Mile Award which is for someone who goes above and beyond to help others.



This was won by **Barbara Topping** from the Newcastle Advisory Group for supporting people with a learning disability, autism and carers in her area.



The Advocacy Organisation of the Year Award honours a group that helps people speak up and be heard.



The award was won by **The People Focused Group** who put lived experience at the centre of everything they do, and every member is both a helper and someone supported.



The final award of the evening, **Outstanding Achievement Award**, went to **Dawn Flockton** a member of Inclusion North.



Dawn empowers women with a learning disability and shares her experience as a lived experience trainer..



There was entertainment including dance from Dance Action Zone Leeds and a disco from Shaun at Ridley Vibes.



We also had guest speakers Denise Bowles, Simon Duffy from the Citizens Network and Carrick Brown.