

MEDIA RELEASE/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Learning disabilities nurse in running for national award

A Leicestershire learning disabilities nurse could be in line for national honours with ground-breaking work to help people with learning disabilities access life-saving cancer screening.

Sam Screatton, a learning disabilities primary care liaison nurse with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT), has been shortlisted in the 'Breaking Barriers' category of the 2018 national Learning Disabilities and Autism Awards.



The awards celebrate excellence in the support for people with learning disabilities and pay tribute to individuals and organisations who excel in providing quality care.

Sam was nominated by former colleague Amelia Boulton for innovative work with partners* on accessible information about bowel and breast cancer screening,

The nomination for the cancer-screening work, which includes Easy Read leaflets and DVDs, highlights the scarcity of audio visual resources available to help people with learning disabilities make informed choices about cancer screening programmes.

Sam and Amelia, with community learning disability nurse Linda Evans, found that uptake of cancer-screening services was lower among people with learning disabilities than among the population as a whole. .

They held focus groups with service users before recording films to demonstrate what happens during breast and bowel screening.

The bowel cancer screening resources have been cited in professional journals and the six-part breast cancer screening film is one of the most-watched on [LPT's YouTube channel](#), the [mobile screening section](#) drawing 322,000 views and the [hospital screening section](#) 147,000 over the last three years.

The aim of the work was to produce resources that would be recognised as excellent, help reduce health inequalities and increase uptake of the cancer screening programmes for people with a learning disability.

Her nomination pointed out: "The information within the resources has wide reaching relevance and can become embedded in practice not just for LD nurses but in all areas of health and social care.

"Getting a resource right for people with learning disabilities has wider implications for use, for example where English isn't the first language or the person has a lower reading age."

Sam's awards nomination comes just weeks after she won a competition to decide this year's theme of Leicestershire's award-winning Wistow Maze near Market Harborough – nominating the NHS.

She commented: "I am incredibly proud to have been shortlisted for this award. This is by no means work that I have undertaken alone, and so really the nomination is about celebrating the work of a much wider team and celebrating the commitment and dedication of colleagues across a variety of services who strive to make access to health care better for people with learning disabilities. I am very proud to be a learning disability nurse working for the NHS in the year it celebrates 70 years."

Sam was invited to Birmingham last week for interview with the judges. She will attend a special gala awards night in Birmingham on 29 June when the winners will be announced.

*Partners involved in the cancer screening projects included people with learning disabilities in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland (LNR), , the LNR bowel screening and breast screening groups and Leicester film-maker Bill Newsinger. Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and NHS England

The bowel cancer screening film can be viewed on the [EasyHealth](#) website

More information about the awards from <https://www.nationalldawards.co.uk/>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. **Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)** provides community health, mental health and learning disabilities services for the one million people living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We have a budget in excess of £275 million and employ approximately 5,500 staff. For more information visit: www.leicspart.nhs.uk

2. **Raising Health** is our registered charity (number 1057361) which raises funds to support LPT's excellent care initiatives, equipment and innovations which go above and beyond core NHS provision, to enhance the experience of our patients, service users and staff. www.raisinghealth.org.uk

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