



Digital Health & Care
Northern Ireland
HSC Goes Digital

Digital Health & Care Northern Ireland HSC Digital Awards 2026

Digital Health & Care Northern Ireland

The Autumn 2026 Digital Health & Care Awards is now open for entries, with a 28th August 2026 submission deadline.



About the Digital Health and Care Awards



The awards programme is supported by Digital Health and Care Northern Ireland (DHCNI), celebrating innovation and excellence in digital health and care; recognising contributions from individuals, teams and organisations across HSC.

The awards aim to recognise the best digital and data resources and innovations that enhance health and care delivery, transforming how HSC will harness technology and improve outcomes for our population and our staff. They acknowledge the achievements of health and social care professionals, data and IT professionals, as well as those who support change and improvement across the digital landscape of HSC.

Awards Ceremony 8th October,
2pm, La Mon Hotel, Belfast

Awards Timeline

**6TH
JULY
2026**

AWARDS OPEN FOR ENTRY

Entry Forms can be downloaded here:

**28TH
AUG
2026**

ENTRY DEADLINE

Entries received after the deadline will not be accepted

**W/C 14TH
SEP
2026**

SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

Those shortlisted will be asked to present to the judges

**8TH
OCT
2026**

AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

DHCNI Awards Ceremony
@ NICON

La Mon Hotel
Belfast



Digital Health & Care
Northern Ireland
HSC Goes Digital

Awards Categories



Improving Services



Driving Change using Data and Analytics



Empowering People



Improving Staff Experience through the use of Digital and Data



Partnership for Digital Innovation



Digital Team of the Year



Rising Star



Awards Categories



IMPROVING SERVICES

This award recognises digital innovation that has transformed health and social care services, improving outcomes for patients, service users and staff. It celebrates initiatives that have successfully delivered change, enhanced care experiences and demonstrated measurable benefits through the effective use of digital technology and innovation.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

This award recognises digital solutions that help people take a more active role in managing their health and wellbeing. It celebrates initiatives that support independence, improve access to information, strengthen communication and enable patients, carers and families to make informed decisions about care and treatment.



DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH DATA AND ANALYTICS

This award celebrates individuals or teams using data and analytics to improve decision-making, solve complex challenges and deliver better health and care outcomes. It recognises outstanding examples of how data has been used safely and effectively to drive meaningful change across services and organisations.



Awards Categories

IMPROVING STAFF EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE USE OF DIGITAL AND DATA

This award recognises projects that have improved the working lives of health and social care staff through the innovative use of digital technology or data. It celebrates solutions that simplify processes, enhance productivity, support wellbeing and create a better experience for those delivering care and services.



PARTNERSHIP FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION

This award celebrates successful partnerships that have delivered innovation through collaboration. It recognises organisations and teams that have worked together across sectors, disciplines or organisations to achieve outcomes that would not have been possible alone, creating lasting benefits for patients, staff and services.



DIGITAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

This award recognises a team that has demonstrated excellence in delivering digital transformation within health and social care. It celebrates collaborative teams that have successfully introduced innovative solutions, fostered a culture of digital improvement and delivered measurable benefits for patients, staff and the wider system.



8th October 2026

Awards Categories



DIGITAL RISING STAR

This award recognises an individual at the beginning of their digital or data career who has shown exceptional promise, commitment and achievement. It celebrates emerging talent that is making a significant contribution to digital transformation through innovation, professionalism and a passion for improving health and social care services

How to Enter

FOLLOW THIS LINK TO SUBMIT YOUR
ENTRY IN THE
DIGITAL HEALTH & CARE NI
HSC DIGITAL AWARDS COMPETITION.

Deadline for Submissions

ENTRY DEADLINE IS
28TH AUGUST 2026

Awards Ceremony

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2026
2PM
LA MON HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB
41 GRANSHA ROAD, BELFAST, BT23 5RF,
NORTHERN IRELAND

CONTACT: dhcniconcontact@hscni.net



DHCNI

Digital Health & Care
Northern Ireland
HSC Goes Digital

Digital Health & Care Northern Ireland

HSC Digital Awards
2026
Entrance Criteria



IMPROVING SERVICES

About this award

This award is intended to recognise work within any area of the Northern Ireland health and social care system which has improved the care of people through transformation to deliver and / or influence change. The award also recognises innovative work that has improved staff experience or has contributed to greater integrated care.

Nominators should provide a clear narrative explaining why and how the transformation was developed or implemented and how the change has improved the experience and outcome of care.

Who can submit an entry / be nominated?

An individual or team working at any level within a HSC organisation providing health and social care within Northern Ireland.

Criteria

- Able to demonstrate that their work is commensurate with regional policy and strategy within health and social care in NI.
- Clearly demonstrate a positive contribution to an innovative development that has made a clear improvement to patient care, service delivery or staff experience.
- Provide evidence of impact using data, evaluation, or user feedback
- Demonstrate safe governance and appropriate oversight
- Show measurable benefits and potential for wider adoption or scaling.

All entries must have been completed in the last 24 months

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

About this award

The award focuses on how digital products and services can support people to live independently, self-manage long term conditions and provide patients, clients and their carers greater visibility and control over treatment and care journeys.



Who can submit an entry / be nominated?

An individual or team working at any level within a HSC organisation in Northern Ireland

Criteria

- Demonstrate that their work is commensurate with regional policy and strategy within health and social care in NI.
- Demonstrate how the project's digital initiative enables patients, carers, or families to better manage care and make informed decisions.
- Demonstrate safe governance and appropriate oversight.
- Demonstrate clearly the benefits the work has had enabling patients and families to self manage their health and well being.
- Provide clear evidence of how their work provides information/education in an easy to understand way, improves carer-patient communication and facilitates shared decision making.
- Through service evaluation, patient involvement and / or other means, is able to demonstrate a positive impact on patients' ability to take control over treatment and care journey.
- Show measurable benefits and potential for further replication or scaling in other areas or regionally.

All entries must have been completed in the last 24 months

DRIVING CHANGE USING DATA AND ANALYTICS

About this award

This award is intended to recognise those working within HSC who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in using data and analytics to solve complex problems, create new opportunities or improve health and social care services and outcomes.

Who can submit an entry / be nominated?

An individual or team working at any level within a HSC organisation in Northern Ireland demonstrating use of data analytics, intelligence and evaluation.

Criteria

- Demonstrate that their work is commensurate with regional policy and strategy within health and social care in NI.
- Demonstrate a safe governance framework for data use.

Clearly describe the problem, approach, and impact of the work.

- Provide evidence of how data has been used to bring about positive change in the delivery or planning of care or a substantial improvement in patient outcomes.
- Describe and provide testimonial evidence of the working relationship between other organisations or departments that drove the project forward.
- Provide evidence of effective data sharing or collaboration across organisations or teams.
- Show measurable benefits and potential for further replication or scaling in other areas or regionally.

All entries must have been completed in the last 24 months

IMPROVING STAFF EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE USE OF DIGITAL AND DATA

About this award

This award recognises individuals or teams who have used digital technology, data or innovation to improve the experience of HSC staff. It celebrates initiatives that have enabled staff to work more effectively, reduced administrative burden, improved productivity, supported wellbeing, strengthened communication or enhanced access to the information and tools needed to deliver high-quality care. The award highlights the important role digital transformation plays in creating a more efficient, connected and rewarding workplace for the health and social care workforce



Who can submit an entry / be nominated?

An individual or team working at any level within a HSC organisation in Northern Ireland that has successfully delivered a digital or data-enabled improvement to the staff experience.

Criteria

- Demonstrate that their work is commensurate with regional policy and strategy within health and social care in NI.
- Clearly describe the challenge or staff need that prompted the development or implementation of the digital or data-enabled solution.
- Provide evidence of how the initiative has improved the experience of staff, eg. by reducing workload, streamlining processes, improving access to information, supporting flexible ways of working, enhancing wellbeing or enabling staff to spend more time delivering care.
- Demonstrate meaningful engagement with staff during the design, development or implementation of the solution and show how user feedback influenced the outcome.
- Provide evidence of measurable impact using data, evaluation, staff feedback or service improvement measures.
- Demonstrate safe governance, appropriate oversight and consideration of information governance, security and risk management requirements.
- Show how the initiative has supported cultural change, digital adoption or new ways of working within the organisation or across HSC.
- Show measurable benefits and potential for further replication or scaling in other areas or regionally.

All entries must have been completed in the last 24 months

PARTNERSHIPS FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION

About this award

Celebrating cross-organisational or cross-sector partnerships that have delivered meaningful innovation through digital.



Who can submit an entry / be nominated?

An individual or team working at any level within a HSC organisation in Northern Ireland who has collaborated with one or more partner organisations to deliver digital innovation.

This must include partnership working across organisations, for example:

- Across HSC organisations or departments
- With other public sector bodies
- With industry partners, academia, or innovation organisations

Criteria

- Evidence innovation delivered through collaboration - Clearly describe how the partnership enabled something that would not have been possible working alone.
- Demonstrate measurable impact by showing how the partnership has improved outcomes for patients, service users, staff, or system efficiency.
- Provide a credible evidence base including data, evaluation or case studies to support outcomes.
- Demonstrate how safe governance and oversight was implemented across multiple organisations.
- Show scalability or wider learning outlining how the partnership model or innovation could be replicated or adopted regionally.
- Specifically demonstrate how working with external partners (e.g. industry, academia, innovation organisations) strengthened the delivery or impact.
- Show measurable benefits and potential for further replication or scaling in other areas or regionally

All entries must have been completed in the last 24 months

DIGITAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

About this award

This award will recognise a team that has played a key role in delivering successful digital transformation in their particular service or across HSC in Northern Ireland.



Judges will be particularly interested in projects demonstrating cross-functional working and coproduction of services with patients, clients and health and care professions.

Who can submit an entry / be nominated?

An individual or team working at any level within a HSC organisation in Northern Ireland that has successfully delivered a digital or data-enabled improvement to the staff experience.

Criteria

- Demonstrate that their work is commensurate with regional policy and strategy within health and social care in NI.
- Clearly describe the challenge or staff need that prompted the development or implementation of the digital or data-enabled solution.
- Provide evidence of how the initiative has improved the experience of staff, eg. by reducing workload, streamlining processes, improving access to information, supporting flexible ways of working, enhancing wellbeing or enabling staff to spend more time delivering care.
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- Show how the initiative has supported cultural change, digital adoption or new ways of working within the organisation or across HSC.
- Show measurable benefits and potential for further replication or scaling in other areas or regionally.

All entries must have been completed in the last 24 months



DIGITAL RISING STAR

About this award

Recognises an individual at the start of their digital and/or data career. Judges will specifically look at how the individual has demonstrated outstanding commitment and achievement in their work, and through their quality and professionalism as a high performer stands out in their organisation.

Who can submit an entry / be nominated?

An individual at Band 7 or below, with less than 3 years working experience in digital health within a HSC Organisation in Northern Ireland.

Criteria

- Provide evidence of how the individual's work is producing measurable benefits for healthcare service users – patients, clients and carers;
- Provide clear examples of their contribution or innovation that would be considered outstanding and why they should be awarded the 2026 Digital Rising Star Award.
- Explain how the individual's work has helped staff in management, operational, or patient and client facing services, improve services for patients and service users.

All entries must have been completed in the last 24 months

HOW ENTRIES WILL BE EVALUATED

Judging

Entries will be assessed by an independent panel of digital health and care leaders against three key areas:

Impact

- What impact has the project made?
- What demonstrable difference has been made to the service or those people using or working in the service?
- Evidence of measurable improvements
- Additional scoring for feedback and input from service users in design.
- Scale of the project and feedback from users.

Innovation

- How has the service change enabled by innovation, digital intervention or using data sources led to improvement in outcomes / service delivery / resource and other benefits?
- Any challenges overcome during implementation

Inspiration

- To what extent has the project inspired others in supporting and driving digital transformation ?
- To what extent has the project delivered sustainable change for users or in the workplace?

Presentation

- Shortlisted projects will be invited to present to a panel of judges.

Judges' decisions are final.

Winners Announced

- Winners will receive acknowledgement of their award(s) during an awards event on Thursday 8th October 2026 at La Mon Hotel Belfast.



Winners details and those of their successful initiative/project will be published on the DHCNI web site and promoted across DHCNI social media accounts.



DHCNI

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Northern Ireland
HSC Goes Digital

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HSC Digital Awards 2026
Guidance Notes

HSC DIGITAL AWARDS GUIDANCE NOTES

What makes a winning entry?

Top tips to make your nomination stand out from the crowd!



Projects should have been completed within the last 24 months

When writing your submission, please refer to the award criteria for the category you are entering / nominating for and hit each point mentioned by providing solid evidence.

Avoid vague and jargon-laden essays. Tell us why you deserve to win using accurate, concise and informative language. The golden rule is to be clear and engaging.

Back it up – use facts, figures, data, case studies and examples to back up your entry. This will help the judges assess your claims and convince them as to why you are the winners of the award. Feel free to send links and URLs of supplementary documents, web pages and videos.

Please tell us specifically how you or your nominee has gone over and above the requirements of their role, and/or how they have made significant contributions to the work. Did the team/individual go above and beyond; what were the challenges; how did they overcome; did you have any doubts? We want to hear about the journey as well as the outcomes.

Lastly but not least, check your spelling and grammar! Professionalism and care are equally as important in your nominations! Spell out any acronyms to be as clear to the judges as possible, don't make any assumptions that they know what you're talking about!



HSC DIGITAL AWARDS GUIDANCE NOTES

What makes a winning entry?

Top tips to make your nomination stand out from the crowd!



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Northern Ireland

DELIVERING CARE TOGETHER

*Good
Luck!*

HSC Digital Awards 2026

Contact: dhcniconcontact@hscni.net