




# AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

## NOMINATION FORM BREAKING BARRIERS

Nomination opens:	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Nominations close:	5pm - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022
Award criteria:	<p>This Award is for an air ambulance charity or individual who has demonstrated exceptional, practical commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion in their workplace.</p> <p>While awareness and acceptance of the benefits of ensuring equality of opportunity and a proactive approach to inclusion have increased, this Award will go to the organisation or individual who has taken action to turn these ambitions into reality, to turn warm words into solid actions.</p> <p>This may be an organisation that has created an inclusive environment that has encouraged a diverse staff/volunteer base that reflects its community, or it may be an individual who has acted as a role model, taken action to deliver change, or inspired others. It may be embedding EDI into day-to-day work or leading broad cultural change.</p> <p>This award covers the 24 months to July 2022.</p>
Eligible nominees:	Open to all air ambulance charities and staff members
Eligible nominators:	Air ambulance charities
Nominator name:	Claire Wilkinson – Essex & Herts Air Ambulance
Nominator email:	<a href="mailto:claire.wilkinson@ehaat.org">claire.wilkinson@ehaat.org</a>
Nomination submitted:	02/09/2022
Nominator signature:	
Submit application to:	Nick Champion, Independent Secretary to the Judging Panel by email: <b>awards@airambulancesuk.org</b>



Note:	Please type in no less than 11pt Calibri font to a maximum of 2 pages. Please also attach, or link to, any images or film to support your nomination in your email when submitting this application.
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<b>BREAKING BARRIERS NOMINATION</b>	
Nominee name:	The Royal Visit

**Since our journey began back in 1997, we've grown considerably, becoming a bigger and more inclusive family. Right across the charity, we continue to attract and develop talented people who bring more, because of their diverse backgrounds, experiences, cultures and outlooks.**

From our leadership team to our doctors, paramedics, canvassers, fundraising staff, charity shop staff and volunteers, we remain committed to building a warm and welcoming environment where everyone feels able to participate and unlock their full potential. There was no better opportunity to showcase our inclusive environment than hosting a visit by Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### Communities that stand together are more resilient in times of crisis

Being 'inclusive' is one of our six core values. We work together to make equal and diverse spaces everywhere we go, and that was one of the key reasons why we were able to welcome The Earl and Countess to our North Weald Airbase. We work alongside many hospitals, emergency services and supporting organisations across the region daily, and although the pandemic has had a very real impact on our partners and us, we increased collaboration and produced positive results. By helping with the transfer of COVID-19 patients between hospitals and hosting a webinar to share knowledge and experience, the charity demonstrated that diversity, inclusion and collaboration are essential, especially in times of crisis.

We believe balanced teams are more efficient at solving complex issues, managing risks and identifying new opportunities. Through our specially arranged webinar, the operations and clinical directors of air ambulances rapidly developed a synergy where experiences and knowledge were shared to the benefit of all air ambulances. This was an unprecedented, rapidly developing situation, and the mutual support was incredible to witness and has carried on.

### A Royal "Thank You"

During their heavily anticipated visit to our North Weald Airbase, their Royal Highnesses spent time with representatives from the local hospitals in the region and also spoke to air lifted patients and their families to hear first-hand about their experiences. The highlight of the visit took place at the front of the building, where representatives had gathered from emergency services and voluntary support organisations, together with members of the armed forces and many EHAAT charity staff and volunteers. The Earl and Countess took the opportunity to stop and speak to individuals, learn more about their outstanding work and thank them for their service.

**Jane Gurney, EHAAT CEO**, said: "This is a real milestone in our charity's history, as it is the first time that Essex and Herts Air Ambulance has hosted a Royal visit. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring together all of the organisations that have worked so hard during these challenging times of the pandemic. I am truly honoured that we have been able to showcase our new airbase at North Weald and share our vision for a Centre for Excellence that will continue to develop pre-hospital care into the future."

**Chair of Trustees at EHAAT, Jonathan Trower**, added: "We are absolutely delighted to have welcomed Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex to our new airbase in North Weald, and we are very grateful for their interest and support for our charity. We were able to show them our outstanding new facilities for our team and to discuss our exciting plans for the further development of our emergency medical services across Essex and Hertfordshire."

The Earl and Countess also spoke with EHAAT volunteers to thank them for devoting their time and energy to the charity. With an army of over 400 volunteers, we continue to demonstrate our ability to bring people together from different backgrounds, disciplines, cultures and generations and every individual has something unique to offer. Our volunteers are valued members of the team at EHAAT. They help at our offices, in our charity shops and at fundraising events. As well as making a difference by supporting our life-saving work, volunteers enjoy being part of a group of

people who share in our aim to save lives, reduce or prevent disability, or suffering from critical illness and injury, by delivering a first-class pre-hospital emergency medical service to the people of Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas.

**Carole Simmonds has been volunteering for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance** since 2011 and recently received her 10-year award. She said: “We get immense satisfaction from being volunteers. The highlight of our time has to be the rebrand collaboration of the two counties in 2017. The anticipation of purchasing our own helicopter was very exciting, and the first sight of the new AW169 flying over Audley End had even the hardened volunteers weeping for joy. We cannot think of another charity more deserving, and we are proud to be part of this wonderful team.”

#### Diversity powers creativity and collaboration

By creating a safe environment, we give each individual the chance to achieve their full potential, free from prejudice and discrimination. Whilst the Royal Visit was a historic milestone for the charity, it also highlighted the power of collaboration through diverse teams, which undoubtedly fosters productive and positive outcomes.