



**Immediate release**

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## **Bath breast cancer support worker wins national award**

A Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) worker who set up a bra fitting service for breast cancer patients following surgery has won a prestigious national award.

Karen Read, who joined RUH in 2020, scooped gold in the Clinical Support Worker of the Year Award category at the [Our Health Heroes Awards](#), delivered by [Skills for Health](#).

In addition to helping patients who have had a mastectomy or have breast asymmetry get fitted for bras, Karen established a dedicated prosthesis fitting service and has even trained in nipple and areolar tattooing for patients who have had reconstructive surgery.

Speaking at a glittering awards ceremony held in London Karen said:

“It's amazing. It's a lovely achievement, a surprise, but I'm really, really grateful.

“We work as a really close team, and I work with some amazing colleagues. We all have our own part to play, but we all work as one and it's really nice to think that they value what I do.

“The whole team is really behind the awards, and it's helped to give a little bit of happiness into what's been a really long couple of years.”

Congratulating Karen on her award, Kate Hope, Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist at Bath RUH NHS Foundation Trust, said:

“We are delighted that Karen, who is an amazing member of our team, has been recognised through this award for her incredible hard work and innovation in this role.”

The Skills for Health Our Health Heroes Awards is sponsored by UNISON, NHS England, NHS Employers and more. For more information visit: [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/awards](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/awards)

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**Notes to editors:**

### **About Skills for Health Our Health Heroes Awards**

[Skills for Health](#) have been championing the voices of the UK healthcare workforce since 2002. As the Sector Skills Council for Health, we have collaborated with thousands of NHS and healthcare providers to develop solutions that improve skills, jobs, and roles to achieve better patient outcomes.

Our Health Heroes was created to champion real people, who are at the heart of our healthcare system. Now more than ever we need to celebrate and say 'thank you' to the thousands of unsung heroes up and down the country.

Our Health Heroes Awards 2023 is supported by NHS England, SFJ Awards, NHS Employers, UNISON, NHS Race & Health Observatory and National Health Executive.