

E&NH0536

Children's nurse wins national award for exceptional contribution to sick children

Children's nurse Jo Collins has been named as a winner in the prestigious national 2014 WellChild Awards

Stevenage, UK – 2 October 2014 – Jo Collins, who is matron for the Children's Continuing Care Team at the Trust won the Best Nurse Award. The awards are run by WellChild, the national charity for seriously ill children, and honour the dedication of professionals who go the extra mile to help sick children and their families.

Jo has worked in the Children's Continuing Care Team for more than 11 years during which time she has established an excellent service. She leads a team that provides training, equipment and respite care so that children with complex health needs can be cared for safely at home. The children her team care for live across east and north Hertfordshire; all have very complex health needs and rely on life saving medical technology at home such as ventilators and feeding tubes. Having the support of trained carers and understanding how to operate equipment themselves makes such a difference to parents at home with their seriously ill children.

Jo said, "Our role is to support sick children and their families at home. It is a hugely challenging and rewarding job. I am so proud of my team; their skills, commitment, enthusiasm and flexibility make all the difference to these children and their families. The work our team does means that these children

with challenging health needs can stay at home – we’re keeping families together.”

Nick Carver, Trust chief executive said, “For any parent, having a sick child is both terrifying and exhausting. The work carried out with such commitment and dedication by Jo and her team makes a tremendous difference to so many children and families. We are enormously proud to have her as part of our team.”

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