

Swindon Medical Centre Wins Place in Healthcare Top 100 Awards

Carfax NHS Medical Centre in central Swindon has won a place in the top 100 healthcare organisations in the country after staff gave it the thumbs-up as a place to work.

The Centre, run by Carfax Health Enterprise, next to Swindon bus station, secured its prestigious award following a national survey by Ipsos MORI of all the employees in almost 300 organisations which took part. Both NHS and independent healthcare companies were eligible to enter, representing the whole healthcare range – hospitals, primary care, mental health, ambulance trusts, and community interest companies (CICs) such as Carfax.

Around 50 staff comprising doctors, nurses, other health professionals and support staff are employed at Carfax Health Enterprise, making it one of the smallest organisations entering. The Healthcare 100 Award sponsors, **Health Service Journal** and **Nursing Times**, singled out the way in which staff at all levels were encouraged to get involved. This led to “direct and honest communication”, they said, and as a result, the organisation was able to “respond quickly and make changes”.

Carfax is also among the newest organisations to enter Healthcare 100. The CIC took over from the former Daniel Gooch GP Practice and the NHS Walk-in Centre on 1st April 2009, with a five-year contract from Swindon Primary Care Trust to run a new-style 8 to 8 medical centre in central Swindon.

The Centre is open from 7 am to 8 pm, Mondays to Fridays and at weekends from 8 am to 8 pm, every day of the year. Anyone can use the service, whether they are registered with the practice or not, with many services such as travel immunisations, blood and smear tests open to all. People can also visit with or without an

appointment. In its first year, the Centre treated over 28,000 walk-in patients for a range of minor illnesses and injuries.

Marilyn Hughes, managing director of Carfax Health Enterprise, said she was thrilled to have made it to the top 100 in their first year of operating. She went on, "This is an important recognition of our approach here as a community interest company run by the staff, for the benefit of patients. We have a great bunch of staff who are highly committed and very good at what they do. They make our services what they are. This award is a great incentive and with this vote of confidence from our staff, we plan to do even better next year".

Ends

Notes for Editors:

- 1 The Healthcare 100 Award rates health care employers across the public, private and third sector, using the findings from a combination of staff questionnaires and management responses.**
- 2 Carfax NHS Medical Centre provides the full range of family doctor services, as well as its additional specialist services.**

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