
AWARDS

STARS OF SOCIAL CARE

The categories where Spellman Care has been named a 2026 national finalist include The Wellbeing Warriors Award, The Sparkle and Shine Squad Award, The Innovation Pioneers Award and The End of Life and Palliative Care Team Award.

These four new finalist spots at the Stars of Social Care Teams Awards 2026 build directly on this foundation, demonstrating that Spellman Care's commitment to innovation and quality continues to be recognised by industry experts across the UK.

Philippa Young, Group Operations Manager at Spellman Care, commented:

“While we are no strangers to the awards stage, the feeling of pride never diminishes; if anything, it grows with every new accolade. Securing four national finalist spots is a powerful validation of our belief that being a smaller, family-run group is our greatest strength. It allows us to keep our focus exactly where it should be—on the people we care for and the incredible teams who support them. At the heart of this success are our core values of Kindness, Dignity, and Compassion, which guide everything we do. These nominations aren't just for the mantelpiece; they are a celebration of the heart, soul, and tireless innovation that our staff pour into our homes every single day.”

The winners will be revealed at a ceremony on Friday, 8th May, at the Kimpton Clocktower Hotel in Manchester, hosted by ITV's Josie Gibson. Regardless of the final results, being named a four-time finalist reinforces Spellman Care's position as a leader in providing high-quality, person-centred care.

SPELLMAN SPOTLIGHT

4th May 2026

Kindness | Dignity | Compassion



STEETON COURT NURSING HOME CELEBRATES SUCCESS OF INAUGURAL MEMORY CAFÉ

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Following the recent announcement of its new community initiative, Steeton Court Nursing Home is delighted to share the success of its very first Dementia Memory Café, which took place this past Monday.

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EVENTS

MEMORY CAFE

The event marked a meaningful milestone for the home, creating an intimate yet vibrant atmosphere for local residents and families. Steeton Court was also pleased to welcome representatives from Dementia Friendly Keighley and the Keighley Dementia Advice Community Group, who attended the launch to connect with guests and share vital information regarding local services.

The highlights of the session included plenty of fresh coffee, homemade cake, and a spirited, “highly competitive” game of musical bingo that filled the room with laughter. The Keighley Dementia Advice Community Group described the morning as a “wonderful start to the week” and a fantastic opportunity to build community connections and catch up with familiar faces in such a warm and welcoming space.

Steeton Court is committed to ensuring this café truly belongs to its visitors. The home is now inviting ideas, feedback, and suggestions from the community to help decide the activities and focus of future monthly gatherings.

“We are so proud of the success of our very first session,” says Sam Tayler, Deputy Manager at Steeton Court Nursing Home. “It was a truly meaningful morning. It was heartening to see people come together, share a laugh over musical bingo, and connect with others in such a relaxed setting. We want our visitors to shape this space, and we can’t wait to see how their ideas help it grow.”

Following the positive response to the launch, Steeton Court is pleased to confirm that the next Memory Café session will be held on 11th May, starting at 10:30 am.

Members of the local community, carers, and those living with dementia are all warmly invited to return—or join for the first time—to help build on this fantastic start.

AWARDS

STARS OF SOCIAL CARE

Personal Touch Wins Big: Family-Owned Spellman Care Shortlisted for Four National Industry Awards

Spellman Care, a dedicated family-run care provider, has achieved a remarkable feat by being named a finalist in four separate categories at the inaugural Stars of Social Care Teams Awards 2026. This recognition marks a significant milestone for the group, proving



once again that local, independent care providers can compete at the highest level on a national stage.

While the social care sector is vast, the Stars of Social Care Awards specifically seek out the UK’s most exceptional contributors. For a small group with deep roots in the Craven district, the Aire Valley, and Aireborough to secure four finalist spots is a rare and prestigious achievement, setting Spellman Care apart from much larger national providers and highlighting the power of person-centred, local care.

This latest recognition is not an isolated success but rather the next chapter in a sustained period of growth and excellence for the group. Over the past two years, Spellman Care has consistently been recognised for its high standards, winning the Independent / Family Business of the Year at the Keighley and Airedale Business Awards in 2024 and being crowned the national “Connected Care Champion” at the 2025 Champions of Care Awards for its use of digital care planning. This momentum continued through 2025, with the group being Highly Commended at the Great British Care Awards and securing a finalist spot in the Social Care Leadership Awards. (Continued on page 8)

PERSON LED CARE

IN THE HOME

Philippa Young, Group Operations Manager at Spellman Care, explains: “Music taps into a part of the brain that remains vibrant even as other memories fade. To see our resident regain the ability to play the piano again—and with such skill—is nothing short of amazing. It acts as a bridge back to her identity, providing a sense of purpose and joy that is truly transformative. It proves that the ‘self’ is still very much there, waiting for the right spark to bring it forward.”

This story highlights a significant philosophy at Ghyll Royd: the shift from Person-Centred Care to Person-Led Care. While traditional ‘Person Centred Care’ focuses on meeting an individual’s established needs, Person-Led Care empowers the resident to show the team what they want their life to look like, with staff acting as facilitators to make those moments happen.

Robee Gelido, Home Manager, says:

“This is a prime example of Person-Led Care in action. Our resident showed us exactly what she wanted during that first performance with Mary; she didn’t need to tell us in words, she showed us through her actions. We didn’t decide what was best for her; she led the way, and we followed. With the incredible support of her family and our staff, she has re-discovered her love for music. It is a testament to what can be achieved when we truly listen to our residents and support their individual passions.”

What began as a nostalgic afternoon in February has now become a daily celebration of a life’s work. The resident continues to play her piano daily, filling the corridors of Ghyll Royd with music and proving that for some passions, there is no such thing as a final note.

PERSON LED CARE

TRIPS

Craven Nursing Home Resident Relives 1960s Romance as Spellman Care Evolves Toward ‘Person-Led’ Care

A resident at Craven Nursing Home has revisited a landmark deeply tied to his personal history, marking the latest milestone in an initiative to evolve the home’s established care model into a more ‘Person-Led’ approach.



One of the home’s residents was joined by his wife, Jennifer, for a nostalgic visit to the Cow and Calf Rocks in Ilkley. The location served as the couple’s primary ‘date spot’ in the years leading up to their marriage in 1965.

Despite typically preferring to opt out of standard group activities, the resident expressed a firm desire to return to the rocks to reminisce about the early days of their relationship. This visit demonstrated the power of tailored, individual engagement in supporting emotional wellbeing.

The outing was coordinated by Activity Coordinator Katie, who ensured the trip was accessible despite the resident’s limited mobility. Jennifer noted that the Cow and Calf remained their favourite location for quality time throughout their marriage, and the trip allowed the couple to reclaim a vital piece of their shared history.

This visit comes as Spellman Care builds upon its long-standing foundation of Person-Centred Care to embrace a ‘Person-Led’ philosophy. While the group has always put the resident at the heart of every decision, this new direction responds to national feedback by further empowering individuals to be the primary decision-makers in their own lives. (Continued on page 4)

PERSON LED CARE

TRIPS

Rather than simply being the focus of a care plan, residents are now supported to actively lead the conversation regarding how they spend their time. This shift is about empowering individuals to make their own decisions and providing the professional support to see those wishes through.

Philippa Young, Group Operations Manager at Spellman Care, is leading this strategic move across the group. She explained: “While we have always been proud of our person-centred approach, we are now moving towards a truly person-led model. This initiative is about building on the feedback received from residents on a national level; it’s about not only putting residents at the centre of everything we do, but truly listening to how they want to spend their day and supporting them to achieve that.”

Mrs Young added: “It’s about empowering individuals to make their own decisions, ensuring they are active participants in their care rather than just the subject of it.”

The trip to Ilkley follows several other significant person-led journeys facilitated by the Craven Nursing Home team. Last year, staff members accompanied a resident and his family to the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway to honour his late brother, a fellow cherished resident of the home. The steam train drivers placed the brother’s ashes in the train’s fire pit, fulfilling a shared lifelong passion for steam travel.

Furthermore, the home recently supported a resident with mobility challenges to travel to Pontefract for a long-overdue lunch with his housebound mother. This was their first meeting in several years, allowing them to reconnect over memories of his former career as an aspiring chef—a meeting that would have been impossible without dedicated, individualised support.

PERSON LED CARE

IN THE HOME

[Aireborough Piano Teacher Overcomes Dementia Challenges to Play Again Following Heartfelt Reunion at Ghyll Royd Care Home](#)

A story that began with a chance encounter in February has reached a moving crescendo at Ghyll Royd Care Home, as a resident has been supported to rediscover her lifelong talent and identity as a piano teacher.



The journey started earlier this year when a local pianist, Mary, arrived at the home to perform for the residents. In a stunning coincidence, Mary looked into the audience and recognised one of the residents as the very woman who had taught her to play decades ago. The reunion was instantaneous; the resident, who is living with dementia, joined Mary at the piano, and together they filled the room with music. The moment was so powerful that it did more than just stir emotions—it acted as a cognitive “key” for the resident, unlocking a skill and a passion that many feared had been lost to the progression of her condition.

Since that afternoon, the team at Ghyll Royd has been dedicated to nurturing this spark. Witnessing the profound impact that playing had on the resident’s wellbeing, her family stepped forward to kindly donate a piano to the home, ensuring she could play whenever the mood struck. With the daily encouragement and support of the care team, she is now playing regularly again, performing her favourite tunes with the same grace and skill she possessed years ago.

The resident’s ability to transition from listener to performer so seamlessly is a testament to the unique way music interacts with the brain, particularly for those living with memory loss. (Continued on page 6)