



Lived Experience Judge - Frequently Asked Questions

When and where will the in-person Judging Day meeting be?

The in-person judging day will be on Tuesday, 7th of July 2026, and will be held at [Telegraph Hotel](#) in Coventry, in The Editor's Suite. The timings will be:

- Please arrive from 10:30am, to begin at 11am.
- We expect to be finished between 3-4pm. This will depend on how many nominations your group must read.

Who can be a Lived Experience Judge?

We are asking interested service users and residents currently accessing mental health, learning disability and autism services in the U.K to apply.

Do I need a staff member to support me?

Yes. All service users will need a member/s of support staff to help them attend the in-person judging day, and the Awards ceremony, if you would like to attend.

What happens at the Judging Day meeting, and what is expected of me?

On the Judging Day, you will work alongside the Head Judges to review and evaluate award nominations. Your role is to:

- **Discuss and Score:** Engage in discussions about the nominations within your assigned category and provide scores for each one using the scoring sheet.
- **Collaborate:** You will work with the Head Judges, who will guide the process.
- **Represent Lived Experience:** Your unique perspective is the primary contribution to ensuring the awards reflect authentic experiences.

Who are the Head Judges for 2026?

- Ian Callaghan
- Marsha McAdam
- Esther Onyeka
- Philippa Mariani
- Waldo Roeg
- Emily Reynolds

The Head Judges will be there on the Judging Day to support and guide you through the day as you discuss and score each nomination. They will also be at the Awards ceremony to present their category's award.

Will lunch be provided at the judging day meeting?

Yes, a sandwich buffet and tea/coffee/water will be provided. This will be a selection of sandwiches/wraps, salad, wedges/chips, some hot items and a sweet treat. Dietary requirements will be catered for.

What happens if I need to take a break during the day?

Because it is a long day, you are welcome to take a break whenever you need to. There are spaces available outside the meeting room in the lobby or outside the hotel if you need fresh air or a quiet moment. There is also a scheduled lunch break for everyone to rest and refuel.



Is the Telegraph Hotel and Editor's Suite accessible?

Yes, the venue and the specific room for the judging day are accessible.

Is there parking available at the Telegraph Hotel?

There is no parking available on-site at the hotel. However, there are several paid parking options located locally within walking distance, including [West Orchards Shopping Centre](#) (3min walk) or the [Bishop Street Car Park](#) (4min walk). Please view their website for parking information.

What happens if I can no longer take part?

Please contact events@cygnethealth.co.uk as soon as possible.

Will I get an invite to the awards ceremony?

Yes! All Lived Experience Judges and support staff will be sent an RSVP invite to our exclusive award ceremony. If you are unable to attend on the day, we will provide you with a link to watch the event online if you wish to.

Where will the awards be held?

The Lived Experience Events Team have chosen [Stafford County Park](#) in Tamworth as the venue for the 2026 awards ceremony, which will be on Wednesday, 23rd September 2026.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

You can email us at events@cygnethealth.co.uk