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**Oscar Kilo Awards 2024 - Guidance Notes**

1. **Introduction**

These awards have been created to recognise the work across UK policing in providing wellbeing support for the workforce.

The information below provides details of the categories and the entry criteria – please read all of the criteria carefully then complete the application form.

* Applications open on the 22 April 2024
* Deadline for submissions will be 2 August 2024

1. **Entry Criteria**

*Please read the following criteria carefully in making your decision to submit an application:*

* The awards are open to police forces from across the UK.
* Entries may be submitted for multiple categories, but each submission must be tailored to fit the category for which you are applying.
* If you are nominated, you will be invited to join us for our awards ceremony, which will be held in the evening of the second day of the Oscar Kilo Annual Conference -the 19th November 2024 at Crewe Hall Hotel, Weston Rd, Haslington, Crewe CW1 6UZ
* Your organisation should have completed the online assessment (Blue Light Wellbeing Framework) via Oscar Kilo for your organisation
* The nomination is for the organisation, **not for an individual**. However, if there has been one individual that has made a significant contribution to the projects’ success, they may be referenced within the nomination.
* Awards presented are in recognition of the concept and delivery but not of providers / venues / products.
* You can nominate a project, intervention, new working practice (i.e. meeting/working group/policy), or scheme.
* Forms must be completed in their entirety and show clear evidence of success.
* For judging, all information will be supplied only to the judging panel; however, for editorial write-ups and to portray why you have won on the night, some information may be garnered from your entry.
* There is a ‘non-police award’, for other organisations such as a UK Fire and Rescue Service who are working towards completing the Blue Light Wellbeing Framework who may wish to submit a nomination.

1. **Categories**

We have seven categories to reflect the seven areas of the Blue Light Wellbeing Framework. They are:

* **Creating the Environment**
* **Leadership**
* **Absence Management**
* **Mental Health**
* **Personal Resilience**
* **Protecting the Workforce**
* **Occupational Health**

This year we have also added two new categories:

* **OK9 Wellbeing and Trauma Support Dog**
* **Police Covenant**

2024 will also see a one-off award:

* **Innovative Approaches to Improving Deployability**

1. **Category Criteria**

**Creating the environment**

*Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence areas of improvement in one or more of the following areas:*

* Helping to create an environment that is conducive to wellbeing
* Contributes to people experiencing meaning and purpose in their work
* Improved access to services / wellbeing provision
* Increased awareness by all employees about wellbeing and access to services
* Accessible and well used internal engagement forums
* Awareness of the links between wellbeing, Health and Safety and Code of Ethics
* Improvements to working environment including access to resources required by staff to do their job
* Preventing ill health and clear direction and support for those attending work who are unwell

**Leadership**

*Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence areas of improvement in one or more of the following areas:*

* Good consultation and communications around workplace wellbeing issues
* Consistent and positive approach to wellbeing from Senior Management
* Flexible working practices
* Dealing with whistle blowing, disciplinary and grievance procedures
* Reward and recognition
* Line managers understand wellbeing and have relevant leadership and management training
* Encouraging joint decision making between line manager and individuals
* Focus on learning and development and personal development
* Well managed organisational development and change

**Absence Management**

*Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence areas of improvement in one or more of the following areas:*

* Well used and communicated absence management policy
* Good contact with employees out of work and return to work procedures
* Risk assessments in high vulnerability roles
* Reasonable adjustments
* Interventions created and designed in response to changes in absence trends
* Return to work policies designed to support rehabilitation, early return to work and reasonable adjustments.
* Proactive support to those off long term sick

**Mental Health**

*Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence areas of improvement in one or more of the following areas:*

* Promotion of mental wellbeing and investment in workforce mental wellbeing
* Active engagement with and promotion of campaigns aimed at reducing the stigma around mental ill health
* Clear accessible information provided around mental health and wellbeing, including work related stress
* Regular mental health checks offered with a focus around vulnerable / high risk roles
* Systems and process in place to allow access to confidential services
* Education and development opportunities made available to enhance skills / knowledge around workplace mental health issues
* Good levels of communication and staff engagement campaigns around mental health
* Organisational change programmes accompanied by support and interventions
* Acknowledgement of requirement to provide specialist support for more complex mental health issues such as PTSD
* Social support groups, volunteering and out-of-work activities are actively encouraged

**Protecting the workforce**

*Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence areas of improvement in one or more of the following areas:*

* Significant incidents are appropriately debriefed and staff are aware of all the support available to them
* Clear and well promoted statement of intent around physical activity and healthy eating
* Procedures in place to identify and assist with financial problems or crisis.
* Active promotion of the importance of physical health indicators, for example, blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar
* Dietary advice, particularly for shift workers is available and easily accessible
* Clear alcohol / substance misuse policies including well communicated access to treatment, pathways and support with training for awareness and signposting training
* New employees are made aware of support available and policies at induction
* Well established peer support panels which are regularly used and are used to challenge organisational workforce wellbeing provision
* Protocols to identify the risks associated with an ageing workforce with strategies in place to support individuals
* Effective procedures in place to report discrimination and bullying
* Assaults of staff accurately recorded via executive reporting mechanisms

**Personal Resilience**

*Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence areas of improvement in one or more of the following areas:*

* Resilience training available to all employees to help identify potential issues
* Personal resilience and self-efficacy is actively promoted and encouraged
* Actively seeking ways to reduce sleep deprivation, for example, overtime policies, turnaround times, working day limits and promoting the importance of sleep
* Onsite catering facilities offer healthier options
* Rolling programme of planned events to promote healthy eating including internal or external support to assist in weight loss and leading a healthier lifestyle
* Information available on the benefits of physical activity including active encouragement of physical exercise supported by the physical environment
* Importance of minimum legally required breaks taken by all staff is communicated at all levels and employees, particularly in sedentary, office based roles, are encouraged to partake in physical activity
* Alternative methods of travel are encouraged and well promoted.

**Occupational Health**

*Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence areas of improvement in one or more of the following areas:*

* The upkeep of adequate clinical records and the protection of patients’ confidentiality whilst acting with integrity and financial propriety.
* Training and clinical governance of Occupational Health staff.
* Working in facilities that are safe, accessible, maintained and appropriate, with the correct standards of hygiene for the services provided.
* All medical equipment is safe and appropriate for the services provided and medicines management and clinical supervision is in place where required.
* Being aware of, and driven by, the needs of the organisation, as well as the hazards, risks, processes and control measures, particularly in relation to emerging police agendas.
* Ensure that all service users are treated equally, fairly and with respect, in line with professional standards and policing codes.

**OK9 Wellbeing and Trauma Support Dogs**

*This category is for an intervention, it is not for an individual. Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence:*

* An effective use of wellbeing dogs in their organisation.
* How wellbeing dogs have had a significant impact on the wellbeing of employees.
* Benefits to individual officers and staff.

**Police Covenant: Outstanding Contribution to Police Wellbeing**

*Entries under this section should address and be able to evidence how the wellbeing aspects of the Covenant have been applied in their force and demonstrate the impact in one of the following areas:*

* **Family support** - work that addresses family friendly policies and / or family representation and engagement.
* **Support for leavers** - work that addresses the significant mental and physical challenges that police leavers must navigate and the need for a defined process for providing support for those leaving the organisation.
* **Operation Hampshire** - evidence of engagement with the Operation Hampshire process for recording assaults on officers and staff and providing effective support for anyone assaulted in the course of their duties.
* **Application of Occupational Health Standards -** Evidenced progress against the foundation, enhanced or advanced standards.
* **Organisational stressors** - work that tackles the additional pressures placed on officers and staff which are not directly related to their role in policing. These additional pressures, termed ‘organisational stressors’ for the purposes of the Police Covenant, can result in greater workplace stress, reduced productivity and poor job satisfaction

**2024 one off award: Innovative approaches to improving deployability**

Protecting operational capability is a priority and therefore the systems and processes we use to identify early intervention opportunities are critical to success.

*Entries for this award must address one or more of the following:*

* Identify innovation and good practice particularly in the use of data combined with supportive interventions.
* Clearly evidence how a system or process has encouraged a reduction in the flow from short term into long term sickness.
* Show how interventions have helped to reduce other avoidable abstractions from operational roles.

1. **Judging Criteria**

Criteria for each category are based on the question sets that forces benchmark themselves against using the Blue Light Wellbeing Framework.

Each project nominated should be able to show evidence the following:

**Well Researched**

It is important for any entry to be evidence-based, both in terms of the audience to be targeted and the messages to be conveyed.

**GAIN model**

Each entry should reference the GAIN model in its planning and application. See our website for details on GAIN - [Blue Light Wellbeing Framework (BLWF) | Oscar Kilo](https://www.oscarkilo.org.uk/blue-light-wellbeing-framework-blwf)

**Achievement and Evaluation**

The project cannot be considered for an award unless its impact has been evaluated and there is clear evidence of it having had a beneficial effect. The impact may not be linked to a reduction in a quantitative sense but may focus on changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviour. The evaluation should be clearly linked to the aims and objectives of the project.

**Scalability and Affordability**

The judges will look for evidence in relation to how viable it is to scale up the project if it is a small-scale innovation. Also, they will be looking to see that consideration has been given to how affordable it is to scale up and how quality can be maintained.

1. **Timescales**

* Applications open on the 22 April 2024
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