Nominations are now open for Scottish Health Awards 2015.

The search is on for Scotland’s top health workers and Borderers are being urged to nominate their local healthcare hero.

Every year, the Scottish Health Awards recognise and reward dedicated NHS staff, support workers, volunteers and specialist teams who go the extra mile to provide outstanding patient care.

Nominations are being sought from those who want to acknowledge the quality of treatment they have received, either for themselves or a loved one.

Whether in hospital, in the community, in a GP surgery, or at the dentist, this is an opportunity to reward the people who give so much, helping the NHS provide world-class care to the people of Scotland.

There are 16 categories this year and, for the first time, included among them is one for dentists. This is a great development for the Scottish Health Awards as the work dentists do can lead to the early detection of mouth cancer and other illnesses as well as improving the state of the nation's teeth.

The awards will culminate in a prestigious award ceremony on the 4 November 2015 at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh.

Chairman of NHS Borders, John Raine said: “The Scottish Health Awards is a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contribution of frontline health and social care workers, as well as highlighting those in support service roles, whose valuable work may not always be as visible.

“I hope that patients, staff and the Borders public will make this most of this opportunity by nominating their local healthcare hero and give them the recognition they deserve, for their work in delivering consistent, reliable health and care services in the Borders.”

To nominate your healthcare hero visit www.scottishhealthawards.com. The closing date for nominations is Tuesday 1st September 2015.

Note to editors

A specially selected panel of judges will select three finalists in every category. The finalists will be invited to attend an awards ceremony on the 4 November 2015 at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh.

The categories for nominations are outlined below.

1. **Support Worker Award** - This award is for an individual support worker providing NHS support services for people in Scotland.

2. **Innovation Award** – sponsored SHIL and NHS Research Scotland - This award is for an individual, a group or a team developing innovative ways to improve the quality of
healthcare and the health of the nation through e.g. service improvements such as new ways of working, faster access to services or new treatments or technology or through research.

3. **Volunteers Award** - This award is for an individual, a group or a team who give their time freely to help improve the health and wellbeing of patients, carers and service users of NHSScotland.

4. **Services to Women and Children Award** - This award is for an individual, a group or a team who provide specialist NHS early year services and care for children and their families in Scotland.

5. **Therapist Award** - This award is for an individual therapist providing NHS therapy services for people in Scotland.

6. **Care for Long-Term Illness Award** - This award is for an individual, a group or a team providing excellent NHS care and support to help people who have a long-term illness cope with their condition.

7. **Quality Champion of the Year** - This award is for an individual working within NHSScotland who has played a key role in significantly improving the quality of care for patients in terms of safety, clinical effectiveness or patient experience within the NHS in Scotland.

8. **Unsung Hero Award** - This award is for an individual, a group or a team who in the course of doing their job, make a real difference for people in Scotland, but whose work often goes unrecognised.

9. **Care for Mental Health Award** – This award is for an individual, a group or a team who provide NHS mental health care for people in Scotland.

10. **Integrated Care for Older People Award** - This award is for an individual, a group or a team who provide vital healthcare and co-ordinated care and support that helps older people live safely at home and be as independent as possible.

11. **Healthier Lifestyle Award** - This award is for an individual, a group or a team involved in supporting people in Scotland to lead and maintain healthier lifestyles.

12. **Leading and Managing for Quality Award** - This award is for an individual working as a middle or senior manager within NHSScotland who demonstrates outstanding qualities in striving to provide the most effective healthcare services.

13. **Dentist Award** - This award is for an individual dentist providing NHS dental care for people in Scotland.

14. **Nurse Award** - This award is for an individual nurse providing NHS nursing care for people in Scotland.

15. **Doctor Award** - This award is for an individual doctor providing NHS medical care for people in Scotland.

16. **Top Team Award** - This award is for a team working within NHSScotland who strive to deliver the best possible quality of care for people in Scotland.

The Scottish Health Awards 2015 is managed by the Scottish Government and the Daily Record.

For further information, please contact Media Scotland Events on 0141 3091402.