

Press Release

For immediate release

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New Leg Club opens its doors in Worcester

A new Leg Club has opened in Worcester, taking the total number of Leg Clubs in England and Wales to 20. The Leg Club model is a pioneering social approach to the treatment of leg ulcers and is being used as a source of reference by the Department of Health in its Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programme.

The new Worcester Leg Club opens every Monday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm at the Tolly Community Centre and is run by district nurse Allison Smith. The Leg Club Model was conceived as a unique partnership between NHS Worcestershire's district nursing team and the local community.

Leg Clubs aim to provide leg ulcer management in a social environment, where patients (members) are treated collectively and the emphasis is on social interaction, patient participation in treatment, empathy and peer support. Patients can be referred from GPs although there is no appointment system and patients are encouraged to drop in at any time when the Club is open.

Jackie Stephen-Haynes, Consultant Nurse and Senior lecturer in Tissue Viability Worcestershire PCT and University of Worcester, says: "I'm a firm believer in the Leg Club model as an efficient and effective way to help treat lower leg problems which blight the lives of thousands of people and I'm delighted that a second club has opened its doors in Worcester."

Note to editors:

1) Leg ulcers (and other chronic leg problems like lymphoedema) can affect people at any age, but are particularly common in people over 60. At present, over 80 per cent of all leg ulcers are treated in patients' own homes by district nurses or by practice nurses in GP surgeries. However, patients often find it difficult to adhere to treatment plans, or to maintain the preventive measures needed to avert recurrence of the ulcer. Many leg ulcers consequently reoccur, or remain unhealed for many months or even years.

2) The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation exists to promote the national development of Leg Clubs. The Foundation also provides the necessary support and training for nurses to establish Leg Clubs and follow the Foundation's guidelines, as well as ongoing training in new developments in leg care.

3) The Leg Club is an innovative model of care that has been shown to improve the health and wellbeing of people with chronic leg conditions. By healing chronic leg wounds and keeping them healed, Leg Clubs also have the potential to save commissioners up to 80 per cent of their wound care budget in comparison with conventional leg ulcer treatment. A Leg Club is a local partnership between community nurses, patients and members of the community. Run by a committee of members and local people, each Leg Club operates according to strict guidelines of care, monitored by the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation. The Leg Club title, the wording and logo are protected by Registered Trade Mark in the UK and Australia.

For further information about the Leg Club Foundation and Leg Clubs visit:

www.legclub.org

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