

Press Release

For immediate release

15th June 2015

Ellie Lindsay honoured in Queen's Birthday list for services to nursing

Former district nurse and Leg Club model pioneer Ellie Lindsay has been honoured in the Queen's Birthday list for service to nursing with an Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Ellie has worked tirelessly to help people of all ages with lower limb conditions, such as leg ulcers, receive the treatment and care they need in community setting. The unique social model she pioneered relies on joint working between local health providers, Leg Club volunteers and members. Each Leg Club operates according to strict guidelines of care, monitored by the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation.

The Leg Club model has proved popular with healthcare commissioners here and abroad. There are 26 Leg Clubs in the UK with another opening at the beginning of July, one Leg Club in Germany and 11 in Australia. Research shows that as well as improving healing rates, lowering rates of recurrence, the non-medical social approach is popular with members hoping to address problems of social isolation amongst the elderly.

Chair of the Leg Club Foundation Roland Renyi said: “We are absolutely delighted that Ellie has been awarded an OBE. The honour recognises the years of hard work, commitment and dedication to the Leg Club model which is now being seen as a viable, replicable and cost-effective way to treat people with lower limb problems.”

Notes 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. 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

For media enquiries please contact: Lynn Bullock on 01473 749565 or email: lynn@legclubfoundation.com