



Press Release

For immediate release

20th March 2015

Bradford on Avon Leg Club announced as winner at Wiltshire Public Health Awards

Bradford on Avon Leg Club was announced as the winner of the Wiltshire Public Health Award for innovation in health improvement at a ceremony at Trowbridge County Hall on Wednesday 18th March. The award, which recognises work showing new approaches to improving people's health, was given to the Leg Club for its innovative work on improving care in the community for patients with leg ulcers.

Judges for the Public Health Awards, organised by Wiltshire Council, received more than 100 award entries. Bradford on Avon Leg Club, run by the Bradford on Avon & Melksham Health Partnership (BOAMHP), was announced the winner after being one of just four projects shortlisted from 22 nominations in the innovation in health improvement category.

Working in partnership with local communities and volunteer groups, BOAMHP's Project Lead Amanda Brookes started the Leg Club in February 2014 and it now has over 240 people registered as members with around 50 people a week having their legs treated. The Leg Club enables patients to receive treatment collectively, on a drop-in basis in a local community venue rather than in their own home. Volunteer groups provide fund-raising and volunteer drivers as well as adding a social dimension to the Club by running a cafe, a creative arts and walking programme, a chiropody and foot care service, and lunch events.

As a result of the holistic nature of the Leg Club and the social dimension it provides Club members have an improved quality of life, the previously housebound have

been mobilised and many new friendships have developed all of which help self-esteem and consequently concordance with treatment.

Dr Nell Wyatt, General Practitioner with the BOAMHP, said: “This is a massive achievement for Amanda and all the Leg Club team. This award is truly deserved and from the countless comments by patients who attend the Leg Club, it has truly changed their lives both in health terms but also with noticeable improvement in their emotional well-being with reduction in social isolation and improved support in the Community.”

Ellie Lindsay, Lifetime President of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, said: “We are extremely proud of all Amanda and her colleagues at the Bradford on Avon Leg Club have achieved. It is a fantastic award and achievement which reflects all their hard work over the last 12 months in improving the healthcare of those suffering from isolating lower limb conditions.”

Bradford on Avon Leg Club runs every Tuesday at St Margaret's Hall in Bradford on Avon. For more information contact Amanda Brookes, Project Lead on 01225 866111.

ENDS

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 on-going 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

For media enquiries please contact: Juliette Lobley on 01473 806605 or email juliette.lobley@legclubfoundation.com