

Press Release

For immediate release

19th December 2014

Oadby and Wigston Leg Club awarded £2,000 grant from local council

Oadby and Wigston Leg Club, which has been running for eight years, has received a grant towards running costs of £2,000 from Leicester County Council. The Leg Club has seen an increase in membership over the last year and has just registered in 497th member. It is supported by local GPs who regularly make referrals for people to be treated for lower leg problems on a drop in basis.

Leg Clubs are a social model of care and operate to high clinical standards. The model was recently shortlisted for a national Health Service Journal award for innovation in primary care. Healing rates are better than in traditional appointment-based clinics. In one Leg Club in Devon the rate of leg ulcers healed at six months was 42 per cent, which is a 33 per cent increase on the national average of just 9 per cent. Furthermore, just 7 per cent of patients had a recurrence of leg ulcers after six months as opposed to the national rate of 46 per cent.

Oadby and Wigston Leg Club member Jean Horner O.B.E. says: "When I first came along I was so down and depressed that I found it very daunting to walk through the door. Everyone was so friendly allaying my fears and now I am a fully-fledged member, with lots of friends and professional help, and look forward to coming back each week."

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. 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: Julian Tyndale-Biscoe, InHealth Communications, on 07882 985597 or email julian.tb@inhealthcomms.com