

## **Press Release**

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

### **Bradford on Avon Leg Club shortlisted for prestigious national award**

Bradford on Avon & Melksham Health Partnership (BOAMHP) with the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) has been shortlisted for a prestigious Nursing Times award.

The partnership was nominated for their work establishing the Bradford on Avon Leg Club. The Leg Club which supports patients with lower limb problems such as varicose veins and leg ulcers was shortlisted in the HRH The Prince of Wales Award for Integrated Approaches to Care category.

Leg Clubs are based on the award-winning healthcare model founded by former district nurse Ellie Lindsay, where nursing staff and volunteers work in conjunction to provide holistic care to patients suffering from lower limb conditions. They operate on a drop-in basis in a non-medical setting, and encourage and empower Leg Club members to become more involved in their care through peer support and collective treatment. Leg Clubs can also help to relieve the social isolation that is frequently experienced by patients with leg ulcers and reintegrate patients back into their communities.

Bradford on Avon Leg Club has become hugely popular since it opened in February 2014. Initially between 15 and 20 people were being treated per week, but within five months the Leg Club needed a bigger space to accommodate its members and was relocated to its current home at St Margaret's Hall in the centre of Bradford on Avon. There are now over 350 registered Leg Club members with on average 50 members treated each week.

In February 2015 the Leg Club was able to expand its services to members by adding a foot care practitioner, a 'Walk-Talk-Create' group, a Health Trainer and holds a "Falls and Balance Group" in the afternoon.

BOAMHP business manager Amanda Brookes said: "I am absolutely delighted that the Bradford on Avon Leg Club has been shortlisted for this prestigious award. The Leg Club now supports over 350 people through a social prescribing model alongside excellent clinical care. It could only continue to thrive with the input from our truly exceptional nurses, health care assistants, volunteers, Leg Club Foundation team and the on-going support of the GP Partners and to be shortlisted for an Integrated Approaches to Care award reflects and rewards this."

Ellie Lindsay, President, The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, said: "This is fantastic news and so well deserved. The team at Bradford on Avon have been uncompromising in their enthusiasm and dedication to setting up, running and making a success of their Leg Club."

Suzanne Flannery, event executive for the Nursing Times Awards said: "The judges had a tough job scoring and commended the high quality of entries so to be shortlisted is a fantastic achievement!"

The Bradford on Avon & Melksham Health Partnership (BOAMHP) and the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) will find out if they have been successful at the Nursing Times Awards ceremony held at Grosvenor House, London on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2015.

## **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](http://www.legclub.org)

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