

Press Release

For immediate release

31st August 2012

Bromley Healthcare in partnership with the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group supports new Leg Club in Mottingham

Bromley Healthcare in partnership with the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group have given their backing to a new Leg Club in Mottingham, Kent – the only Leg Club in the greater London area – which will open its doors on the 5th September 2012.

The Leg Club is based on an award-winning model founded by former district nurse Ellie Lindsay. Evidence shows Leg Clubs, which operate in a non-medical setting, lead to improved healing rates by encouraging members to become more involved in their care. Venous leg ulceration currently costs the NHS an estimated £400m a year and this innovative approach has been shown to be more cost-effective in terms of nursing resource.

The Leg Club will be run with the help of volunteers and nurses provided by Bromley Healthcare. Its specialist nurses will treat and dress patients' legs in this non-medical setting adhering to the Leg Club's recognised standards for hygiene control.

The new Leg Club in Motttingham follows the successful opening of the country's first 'commissioned' Leg Club in Devon. NHS Devon took the decision to support the Leg Club in Barnstaple with nurses provided by Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust. It has plans to open more clubs across North Devon over the next year.

Jonathan Lewis, chief executive, Bromley Healthcare said, "We are delighted to be supporting the Leg Club. Patients will receive better care if community providers like Bromley Healthcare and voluntary sector organisations work in partnership. This will be the first of many partnerships we form to look after our patients better."

Professor Mike Clark, chief executive, Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, said: "We are delighted that Bromley Healthcare and the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group have recognised the benefits of having a Leg Club in the community. Many commissioners are beginning to recognise the value of the model and are trying to make every contact count by including other services within Leg Clubs such as podiatry, diabetes and healthy-heart programmes."

Dr Angela Bhan, Managing Director, Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group said, "The new Leg Club reflects our commitment to commissioning innovative local services that not only provide high quality care but also create an environment that promotes good health, awareness and independence."

Notes to editors:

- 1) Bromley Healthcare is a social enterprise delivering community health services for the benefit of patients and local people. It aims to keep services locally-owned.
- 2) NHS Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) is a consortium of the general practices serving the residents of the London Borough of Bromley.

3) 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.

4) 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.

5) 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