



Press Release

For immediate release

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Lindsay Leg Club Foundation appoints Dr David Foster as vice chairman

The Board of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) is delighted to announce that Dr David Foster has been elected its vice chairman with effect from September 2016 and as chairman elect succeeding current chairman Roland Renyi in 2017.

A highly regarded and nationally influential nurse and midwife, David has been associated with the Foundation over a number of years and took a particular interest in the Foundation's work when he was Deputy Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health. He became a trustee for the LLCF two years ago after a visit to Nottingham Leg Club impressed on him the values and principles of the Leg Club model and the enthusiasm of the nursing staff for this social model of care and treatment.

Leg Clubs, which are based on an award-winning model founded by former district nurse Ellie Lindsay OBE, collectively treat people with lower limb conditions in a non-medical setting and on a drop-in basis. Evidence shows this style of treatment leads to improved healing rates by encouraging members to become more involved in their care and reduces social isolation.

The Foundation's new vice chair brings with him a wealth of experience of the NHS having spanned clinical, management and leadership roles starting as a nursing auxiliary. He trained as a nurse at the Middlesex Hospital and as a midwife at Falkirk and Stirling Royal Infirmaries, ending his NHS career as a Director of Nursing at Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust. His vice-chairmanship coincides with his retirement from the civil service as Head of the Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Policy Unit at the Department of Health.

Dr David Foster takes on the role of vice chair and chairman elect at a very dynamic time for the LLCF and in the evolution of Leg Clubs, with an increasing number of GP led Leg Clubs opening. He said: "I am delighted to be elected vice chair and chair elect of the Foundation. My association with the Foundation takes me back to my early days of nursing when I first saw the debilitation leg ulcers can cause. Now I have seen how effective the social model of care the Foundation promotes can be on improving healing rates and diminishing the impact of social isolation. And it's all because of the excellent care and the lively atmosphere of the Leg Clubs."

Ellie Lindsay OBE, Lifetime President of the LLCF, said: "We are delighted to have Dr David Foster as our vice chair and chairman elect. The extensive knowledge and experience he has gained throughout his distinguished career will be hugely supportive and beneficial to the Foundation."

In addition to his work with the Foundation David will continue as a trustee to the Florence Nightingale Foundation and the Queen's Nursing Institute. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, a visiting professor at Buckinghamshire New University and King's College, London, has an honorary doctorate from Middlesex University and is a member of the Court of London South Bank University

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

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