



Press Release

For immediate release

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Two new Patrons add their support to the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) is delighted to announce that two new Patrons have joined its team of supporters. Sir Muir Gray CBE, NHS England & Public Health England, and Professor Keith Harding CBE Dean of Clinical Innovation at Cardiff University and Medical Director of Welsh Wound Initiative, have offered to share their knowledge, expertise and time to assist the LLCF with their on-going commitment to provide holistic lower limb care.

Sir Muir Gray CBE entered the public health service by joining the City of Oxford Health Department in 1972. He has worked on the development of NHS screening programmes, NHS Choices, the NHS Rightcare programme and is the Chief Knowledge Officer of the NHS in England. He is now working with both NHS England and Public Health England to bring about a transformation of care with the aim of increasing value for both populations and individuals.

Professor Harding CBE is passionate about wound care; its innovation, research and application to practice. He is Head of the Wound Healing Research Unit in the School of Medicine and Dean of Clinical Innovation at Cardiff University. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the International Wound Journal.

Sir Muir Gray and Professor Keith Harding's values, experience and knowledge make their endorsement of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation particularly significant.

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.

Sir Muir Gray said: "This problem of leg ulcers is a huge mess that needs to become a system and the Leg Club Foundation is playing a huge part in this transformation."

Professor Keith Harding said: "I am honoured and delighted to be appointed as a patron of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation. The model of care it creates and supports is, in my opinion, an essential component of health care provision going forward. The lessons learnt in the UK can be applied to many other countries and conditions and when we reflect on health care in 50 years' time we will see and recognize that the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation was the original innovator of an effective and efficient modern-day health care."

Ellie Lindsay OBE, Lifetime President of the LLCF, said: "I am over the moon to have two such world-renowned individuals prepared to put their names and support to our charity. Their combined knowledge and experience will be hugely supportive and beneficial to the Foundation."

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 practice and 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.

For further information about the Leg Club Foundation and Leg Clubs visit: www.legclub.org

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