



Press Release

For immediate release

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Lindsay Leg Club Foundation working in partnership to raise awareness of lower leg and foot health

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) has joined with seven other healthcare organisations to launch a campaign raising awareness of lower limb and foot healthcare. The “Legs Matter” coalition aims to get the nation thinking and talking about leg and foot conditions, including non-healing wounds, varicose veins and oedema.

The LLCF, alongside The Tissue Viability Society, The British Lymphology Society, Accelerate CIC, The College of Podiatry, The Society of Vascular Nurses, Foot in Diabetes UK and The Leg Ulcer Forum have come together to pool their knowledge and resources to deliver a campaign promoting the hidden issue of lower leg conditions and supporting the development of good quality lower leg care throughout the UK.

Research shows that the annual cost to the NHS of managing non-healing wounds is estimated to be up to £5.4 billion. In addition, leg and foot conditions have also been shown to lead to social isolation when there is poor wound care management. The Legs Matter campaign, which features real people living with leg and foot conditions, is determined to change this with a three-fold approach targeting the public, healthcare professionals and the wider NHS.

The campaign aims to raise awareness amongst the public of lower leg and foot conditions and the importance of seeking out the right advice and treatment in a timely manner.

It is also calling on healthcare professionals to recognise the signs and symptoms of lower leg and foot problems, to talk to their patients about their lower leg and foot health and to lobby for better services for patients

Finally, the Legs Matter collation will be working with NHS decision-makers to increase awareness of how much inadequate leg and foot care costs the system and to focus on shaping a system that raises this issue as a commissioning priority.

The campaign will also be supported by a website with both a help section for people with leg problems and one for clinicians who are caring for people with lower leg problems. The team tested the website in late 2017 and launched <http://legsmatter.org/> at the Tissue Viability Society conference in April 2018.

Ellie Lindsay, OBE, President, The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, said: “We are delighted to be a founding member of the Legs Matter campaign. The LLCF and its associated Leg Clubs have been working to provide holistic wound care management for lower limb conditions for over twenty years. Our core values of collective treatment, social interaction, participation, and peer support for our Leg Club members are wholly in keeping with this new coalition venture and its ethos of collaborative working to improve healthcare outcomes.”

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

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