

Press Release

For immediate release

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Lindsay Leg Club Foundation Chair receives national midwifery honour

The Board of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) is delighted to announce that its chair Dr David Foster has received a national award from the Royal College of Midwives (RCM). David received the prestigious Honorary Fellowship at the Royal College of Midwives Annual Awards in London earlier last month. The RCM Honorary Fellowship is for people who make an outstanding contribution, or give outstanding service, to midwifery, maternity services, services for women and their families or to the RCM.

David trained in nursing at the Middlesex Hospital in London and in midwifery at Stirling and Falkirk Royal Infirmaries in Scotland. He held a range of clinical, managerial and professional leadership posts in the NHS culminating in the post of deputy chief nursing officer and midwifery advisor at the Department of Health for eight years.

The RCM website described him as: “A great supporter of midwives and midwifery, committed to ensuring that midwifery had a voice at the highest levels” and that he: “championed the distinct role and position that midwifery holds as a clinical profession and in society more widely.”

David said: "I am delighted to accept this extraordinary, unexpected and greatly appreciated accolade. It recognises achievements which could not have been accomplished alone - it's also a tribute to the skilled and distinguished midwives I have worked with to influence national policy and improve care for women and babies."

In addition to his work with the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation David is a trustee to the Queen's Nursing Institute. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, a visiting professor at Buckinghamshire New University, King's College, London, and Manchester Metropolitan University. He 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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