



Press Release

For immediate release

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Lindsay Leg Club Foundation infection control expert, Andrew Kingsley, is putting away his medical gloves for the last time as he retires.

Andrew, a tissue viability and infection control nurse for Northern Eastern & Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, has worked alongside the Leg Club for the last 22 years, giving expert advice and support around infection control and helping to challenge and overcome initial concerns that the model was in a community rather than health setting.

He even helped raise money and awareness by completing a 200-mile cycle ride from Barnstaple to the Leg Club annual conference in Worcester in 2014.

Andrew said: "I'm a real enthusiast for the model and what it can do. One of the early concerns with Leg Clubs was that they were not in a health setting and there were worries about how you could keep everything clean and avoid infection.

"My view was that no, you don't have everything in a church hall that you would have in a clinical setting, but the model is improving lives so if we could find the right compromise we can deliver great care."

Andrew developed an interest in wound care and infection control in the early 1980s while he was a student at Bristol Royal Infirmary. He was inspired by the infection control nurse he was working with and the fact that new products were coming onto the market that would revolutionise wound care. "I like the autonomous nature of wound care in the UK. No-one really knew any more than me and I wanted to be a leader in that field."

Andrew hasn't ruled out a return to the world of infection control or tissue viability at some point, but for now is happy enjoying his garden and keeping himself fit by continuing to cycle and surf the wild North Devon coast.

Ellie Lindsay OBE, president of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation said:

"Andrew will be very much missed. I want to thank him for all the work he has undertaken for both me personally and our charity. He has been a wonderful support and expert clinical advisor to me and the Foundation. Without his support we would not have the Leg Clubs and guidelines to-date.

"He has given up his time to attend and present at conferences and has been an outstanding supporter throughout the years of the Leg Club opening its doors in 1995. Not only is he a wonderful person, but has been a committed clinical nurse specialist, continually striving to improve exemplary care for patients."

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 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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