Partnerships between health and social care organisations are evolving rapidly in the private and primary health sectors and commissioners are liaising with health and care services that are providing most cost effective and measurable services to meet the needs of a population. The advent of commissioned services for leg ulcer management in the community, presents new and exciting challenges to the patient-centred, holistic Leg Club model approach.

We have also made considerable progress throughout 2012, in terms of raising our profile in recent months; the Foundation has participated at several wound care conferences in the UK, Europe and at the 4th World Union of Wound Healing Societies recently held in Yokohama, Japan, and awareness of our activities within government, the NHS and with the public at large. We have concentrated on disseminating the implementation of the Leg Club model through presentations to primary care organisations, commissioners and potential new Leg Club leads. We also have a Foundation Trustee involved with the Any Qualified Provider programme.

We continue to forge excellent working relationships with our Leg Club Industry Partnership (LCIP) members. Recently LCIP members have participated in meetings at which presentations are made to commissioners and stakeholders interested in the Leg Club model and taking it into practice. Nurses have been able to benefit from the LCIP generic teaching programme and this support is very much appreciated, leading as it does to improved patient care and appropriate product usage.

The charity’s annual conference is a highly-regarded event in the wound care calendar, with sessions run by some of the top clinicians from the UK and overseas, coupled with practical workshops. It brings Leg Club nurses, volunteers and clinical nurse specialists together to share best practice and to learn about the latest techniques and clinical innovations in the management of leg ulceration. The partnership was very evident and clearly demonstrated at the 12th annual Leg Club conference ‘A word for the wise...wound wisdom’ held at Worcester Rugby Club on 27 and 28 September 2012.

Day one of the conference is a collaboration with our LCIP members, focusing upon the practical everyday issues facing clinicians when treating patients with lower limb problems. Seven informative workshops were held over the course of the day with delegates working their way through the sessions in designated groups. A concurrent session ‘How to Set Up a Leg Club’ was very popular, with Leg Club nurses communicating both the difficulties they had to overcome before they could set up the Leg Club and the positive impact that it had on the lives of patients and ulceration recurrence rates once they succeeded in getting the club up and running.

This was followed in the evening with a drinks reception and the Leg Club Foundation charity fundraising gala dinner. The evening was well attended by members of the LCIP and industry, delegates and speakers. After an extremely entertaining after dinner speech by Professor Keith Harding, Foundation patron Dr Timothy Cutler introduced the Leg Club Volunteer awards ceremony. These awards acknowledge the hard work and contributions of our Leg Club volunteers.

Day two comprised a programme of eclectic presentations by a line-up of world-renowned, expert speakers including professors John Macdonald, Keith Harding, Dr Karen Ousey, Trudie Young, Jackie Denyer, Cheryl Pike, Capt Claire Stephens, and Foundation patron Alistair McInnes. This year we had delegates attending from the Netherlands, Malta, Switzerland, Germany and the Isle of Man giving the conference an international dimension.

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation sees the assessment, promotion and improvement of wellbeing among its members as a logical progression to the overall quality of service provided by Leg Clubs and was recently awarded a grant as runner-up in the 2012 Urgo Foundation Awards for the development of a literature review on wellbeing. Trustees Roland Renyi and Dr. Robert Bawden will be working with Professor Dominic Upton and his team at the University of Worcester in developing the literature review and questionnaire over the coming year.

by Ellie Lindsay

Save the date

The 13th Leg Club Conference: ‘Caring and Sharing: Exemplary Practice in Wound Care’, is being held at Worcester Rugby Club on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 September 2013. To obtain further information, programme and booking form, telephone Lynn Bullock 01473 749565 or visit www.legclub.org