

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **LPT LAUNCHES CONSULTATION ON FUTURE PLANS AND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST APPLICATION**

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust<sup>1</sup> (LPT) launches its public consultation about future plans for its services and becoming a NHS Foundation Trust today (Monday 4 August).

The consultation sets out the inspiring vision offered by the Trust for improvements to services over the next 5 years and beyond. It signals important changes in the way the Trust could be governed in the future. By becoming members and governors of the Trust, local people have a genuine opportunity to have much more influence over the way services are delivered in the future.

Sue Hitchenor, Managing Director for Corporate Strategy and Finance and the Trust's lead director for the NHS Foundation Trust programme, says:

“We know we want to change the way services operate to shift the focus towards improving people's general wellbeing as well as their mental health and providing support to people with learning disabilities. We also want to connect with local people, communities and organisations in a more meaningful way. Becoming a Foundation Trust is an excellent way of helping us achieve this.

“As a Foundation Trust local people can become members and even governors of our organisation. Membership is free, but it gives people a much greater say than ever before in the way our services are developed and delivered in this area. This feels a very positive and constructive step forward.

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“Having members will deepen our understanding of local needs by providing an extra way in which people can make their views known. A quarter of people in this area will need help with their mental health to a greater or lesser extent during the course of their life, so it’s vital that the public has a voice in how these crucial services are provided.

“As a Foundation Trust we will remain part of the NHS, working to national standards, but we will have more direct control over the way local services are provided and over funding for service developments. The financial freedoms of being a Foundation Trust will help us improve the quality and responsiveness of our services - and to do this more quickly and effectively.”

Tony Harrop, Chairman of LPT adds:

“We’re all very enthusiastic about becoming a NHS Foundation Trust and see it as a great opportunity to help improve services. Directors and staff want to talk with as many people as possible about our ideas for the future and to hear what members of the public have to say. We are happy to attend meetings with community and voluntary groups on request because people’s views really do matter.”

The consultation document<sup>2</sup> published today (4 August) explains what Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust does, its future plans for services, what a NHS Foundation Trust is, why it’s a good idea to become one and how public members and governors would be involved in running it.

There are also 8 public meetings<sup>3</sup> taking place across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland that are open for anyone to attend.

The public consultation period runs for 13 weeks from 4 August to 31 October 2008.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust can Freephone 0800 013 2530 or log on to [www.leicspt.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspt.nhs.uk) and click on ‘Foundation Trust’.

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust is working to improve wellbeing and mental health and to support people with learning disabilities, across Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland and beyond.
2. Copies of our full and summary consultation documents will be available on our website from 4 August 2008 at:  
[http://www.leicspt.nhs.uk/xform.asp?folder=foundation\\_trust/news/](http://www.leicspt.nhs.uk/xform.asp?folder=foundation_trust/news/)

Paper copies can be obtained from Christine Palmer, contact details below.

3. The public meetings will take place as follows:

**20 August 2008, 6 – 7 pm**

Leisure Centre, Northampton Road, Market Harborough

**3 September 2008, 5.30 – 6.30 pm**

John Storer House, Wards End, Loughborough

**12 September 2008, 10 – 11 am**

Marlene Reid Centre, 85 Belvoir Road, Coalville

**24 September 2008, 4.30 – 5.30 pm**

Peepul Centre, Orchardson Avenue, Leicester  
(followed by buffet and the Trust's Annual General Meeting)

**2 October 2008, 5.30 – 6.30 pm**

King Edward VII School, Burton Road, Melton Mowbray

**7 October 2008, 10 – 11 am**

Brite Centre, Braunstone Avenue, Leicester

**9 October 2008, 4.30 – 5.30 pm**

Voluntary Action Rutland, Barleythorpe Road, Oakham

**21 October, 5.30 – 6.30 pm**

St Francis Community Centre, Tudor Road, Hinckley

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