

## **MEDIA RELEASE /Photo/film/interview opportunity**

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### **Open event to unveil LPT psychiatric intensive care unit for women**



A new specialist psychiatric intensive care service for women with complex and urgent mental health needs will be unveiled in Leicester this week.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) is holding a preview tour of facilities for invited guests on Wednesday (11 October), ahead of the service launch, due later this year.

The psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU) is based in the six-bedroomed Griffin Ward, at the Herschel Prins Centre on the Glenfield Hospital site, close to the Belvoir Unit where LPT provides psychiatric intensive care for men.

LPT has recruited a multi-disciplinary team of nursing, medical, occupational therapy and psychology staff for the unit, which has undergone extensive refurbishment to further improve the environment, safety and security.

The service has been commissioned by East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). As well as serving women from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland it will provide more easily accessible beds for women from Lincolnshire and Derbyshire under an agreement with CCGs there.

Griffin Ward matron Beth Francomb (pictured above in communal areas on the new ward), will be on hand with her team to talk to visitors about the new service at the open day drop-10am and noon and 1pm and 3pm.

She said: “The new unit will offer women experiencing the most acute phase of their mental illness specialist care in a safe, secure and calm environment, closer to home.

“When we open we expect to be able to repatriate women from our area who are currently receiving inpatient care in other parts of the country, away from family and friends.”

Dr John Devapriam (pictured right), clinical director of LPT’s adult mental health and learning disability services, said: “With the opening of our new service, more women will have timely access to PICU services closer to home and their hospital stay is likely to be shorter because they will be able to maintain close contact with community services and their friends and family, which means better continuity of care.



“This is part of a wider transformation programme to improve pathways of care as under the Better Care Together programme.”

Jim Bosworth, associate director of commissioning and contracting for mental health services at East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group, commented: “We are pleased to have commissioned this service which will be available to patients later this year.

“The new unit is excellent news for women with complex and urgent mental health needs as it will provide them with a high quality service locally, so they no longer have to travel out of Leicestershire.

“We have been working closely with LPT to develop this key service and female patients can expect specialist and significantly improved care.”

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**1. Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)** provides community health, mental health and learning disabilities services for the one million people living in Leicester,

Leicestershire and Rutland. We have a budget in excess of £275 million and employ approximately 5,500 staff. For more information visit: [www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk)

2. **Raising Health** is our registered charity (number 1057361) which raises funds to support LPT's excellent care initiatives, equipment and innovations which go above and beyond core NHS provision, to enhance the experience of our patients, service users and staff. [www.raisinghealth.org.uk](http://www.raisinghealth.org.uk)

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