

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### LPT cancer screening pioneers make *Nursing Times* shortlist



*The shortlisted team (left to right)- self advocate Jane Calver, Rachel Hunt, Sam Screaton, Amelia Boulton, Linda Evans, community learning disability nurse Lucy Bullen, self advocates Peter Tebbet, and*

*Mary Breen, film-maker Bill Newsinger and strategic health facilitator Kathryn Joseph*  
*INSET: Amelia, Linda and Sam.*

Three pioneering learning disability nurses from Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust are part of a regional team shortlisted for a national honour in this year's *Nursing Times Awards*.

Sam Screaton and Amelia Boulton from the Trust's primary care liaison nursing team, and community learning disability nurse Linda Evans are part of the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic Learning Disability Working Group, which has made a shortlist of eight from a national field of 800 nominations.

Their regional project work on behalf of the East Midlands health community has been nominated in the 'Reducing Inequalities in Access to Cancer Screening Programmes for People with a Learning Disability' category.

Their nominated project includes the production of two innovative DVDs for people with learning disabilities, one around bowel cancer screening and the most recent around breast cancer screening. It was produced with funding from the regional

cancer network and followed the successful production of easy read and best practice guidance on cervical cancer screening.

Sam Screaton explained: “We identified that uptake of cancer screening programmes in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, is lower among people with learning disabilities.

“We consulted with people with a learning disability to identify barriers to screening and found that many of the resources that exist are not suitable to enable people with learning disabilities to make informed choices.”

The team worked closely with Leicester film-maker Bill Newsinger and the bowel cancer DVD was produced in Autumn last year. It is available across Leicestershire and Rutland from libraries and from learning disability teams across the East Midlands, and the team has received countrywide requests for copies.

The group’s latest project is a breast-screening DVD which explains the whole process from receiving the invitation for screening through to what happens when you attend the appointment.

Said Sam: “We worked with service users to plan the DVD and used an actress to give a clear demonstration of what happens. The film also explains how to examine your own breasts and what changes to look for. “

The project was nominated for the *Nursing Times* award by Rachel Hunt, screening immunisation coordinator from Public Health England, who said: “The resources have wide-reaching relevance and can be used in practice, not just for learning disability nurses, but in all areas of health and social care. They can be used as a resource for practice and educational purposes and can also create personal awareness of our own health. It is anticipated that these resources will promote an increased uptake of cancer screening programmes for people with learning disabilities.”

The primary care liaison nursing team has also developed guidance for healthcare providers and work closely with GPs, breast cancer screening staff at Glenfield and Kettering General Hospitals, screening and immunisation teams, practice nurses and other health professionals, as well as with service users and carers to promote healthy lifestyles and break down barriers to healthcare access.

Most recently they hosted a free event for carers to raise awareness and help carers to support their loved ones in making informed choices about cancer screening.

The team has been invited to present to judges on 12 September and the winners will be announced on Wednesday 29 October as part of a special awards ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Both DVDs are available at [www.betterhealth.org.uk/listing/cancer-\(videos\)](http://www.betterhealth.org.uk/listing/cancer-(videos)) Limited numbers of hard copies and copies of the bowel cancer screening leaflets are available on request from Sam and Amelia on 0116 225 5291.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS** Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living Leicester, Leicestershire and. Trust serves a population of one million, has a budget in excess of £282 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff. For more information visit [www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk)

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