

MEDIA RELEASE

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Leicestershire landmarks help transform wards

Work to transform the specialist ward environments for patients with dementia has reached the halfway point. The £140,000 investment will provide improved therapeutic benefits for those receiving care from Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.

One of the two specialist wards at the Evington Centre has been made much brighter, and decorated with massive images of Leicestershire landmarks such as Bradgate Park and Leicester railway station.

Now work will begin on a similar transformation for the second ward.

The two wards are the dedicated specialist dementia wards serving the whole of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. They are based at the Evington Centre, off Gwendolen Road, Leicester, and accommodate 21 men and 21 women with moderate to advanced stages of dementia.

Laura Belshaw, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's deputy head of service and lead nurse, said the landmark murals could have important therapeutic benefits.

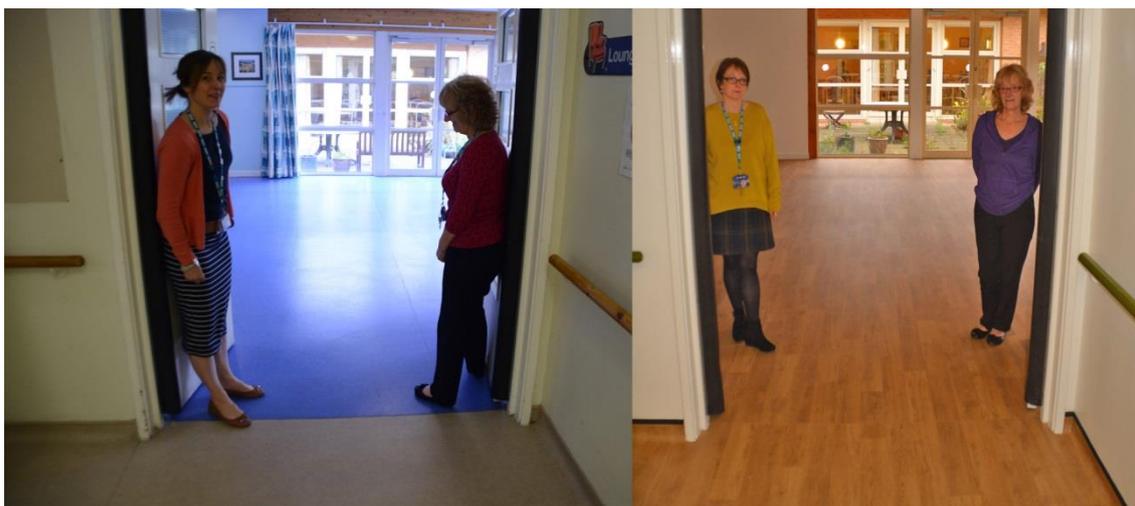
"We have chosen key places of interest from around Leicester that patients and visitors will know and will have memories from to support reminiscence and meaningful conversations.



“It has generated positive interest from other clinicians about how they can improve their patient areas through art.”

The landmarks include Bradgate Park, Leicester railway station, the Clock Tower, the Magazine, New Walk Museum and Art Gallery, Abbey Park, and Leicester Castle.

They have been fixed on to walls which have been painted in lighter colours. At the same time, the previously blue flooring has been replaced with more suitable colours – recent research has shown patients with dementia can mistake blue flooring for water, which can upset them and can make them more likely to fall. Lighting has also been improved.



The entrance to an activity room before (left) and after the transformation

Laura Belshaw added: “The ward is now a very bright place compared to what it was. It is making a massive difference.”

The £22,000 costs of the murals has been paid for by LPT’s charity Raising Health. The ‘Colour My Memories’ Appeal is buying further items for the dementia wards which support meaningful activities through reminiscence, can connect a person to their past, and can have a positive, calming effect on them.

You can find out more about the fundraising appeal at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/raisinghealth/colourmymemories>

To support the Colour My Memories appeal, contact fundraising manager Lindsay Woodward at lindsay.woodward@leicspart.nhs.uk or call 0116 295 0889.

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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

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 .