

MEDIA RELEASE

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Hayley Biggs uses her legs to raise cash for an arm support

A Hinckley health worker is going to run the Virgin London Marathon to raise £1,500 for medical equipment which will help people who have had a stroke.

Hayley Biggs works with people who have had strokes in her job with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT). She is a technical instructor, providing physiotherapy and occupational therapy to patients in their own homes, and is based at Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospital.

Hayley is aiming to raise money to buy a Saebomas arm support for patients who have reduced movement following a stroke. The Saebomas arm support takes the weight of the patient's upper limb, enabling them to practise their movements and build up their arm strength.

Hayley, 27 who lives in Markfield, said: "I apply for the London Marathon each year, never expecting to get a place. I was in shock really when I found out, it took a few hours for it to sink in that I was running in the London Marathon."

She added: "A marathon isn't something people take lightly, you are committing five or six days a week to training. Training isn't easy, there are times when you think 'Why am I doing this'?"

"Thinking about how this will help the patients will give me the motivation to do all the training and complete the run."

Hayley is a keen runner, and is a member of Team Anstey Amblers and Runners. This will be her second marathon, having completed the Liverpool marathon last year.

Hayley gained her place through Raising Health, LPT's in-house charity. Lindsay Woodward, fundraising manager for Raising Health, said: "Raising Health is a charity that supports the work of Leicestershire Partnership Trust by allowing us to go above and beyond the excellent care our staff provide. We fundraise for equipment and to make patient environments better."

Katie Roland, operational lead for LPT's Community Integrated Neurological and Stroke Service, said: "We would really like to have the Saebomas arm support within our team to benefit our patients.

"It will allow us to increase their strength, range of movement and functional activities and hopefully increase the patient's confidence by enabling them to do tasks independently. It will really benefit the therapist by giving them a hands-free approach to the assessment, allowing them to concentrate on other areas and glean more information."

You can sponsor Hayley at: www.virginmoneygiving.com/hayleybiggs. The run takes place on April 23, 2017. Hayley's colleagues are supporting her fundraising through cake sales and race nights.

You can learn more about Hayley and her run in this video: <https://youtu.be/5FWKvIL5XbE> .

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Note to editors

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Trust serves a population of one million, has a budget in excess of £267 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff. For more information visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk.

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