

MEDIA RELEASE

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Hinckley nurse bids for national accolade

A Hinckley nurse has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award.

Lesley Wright, a staff nurse for Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, is up for the title of mentor of the year in the Nursing Times Student Awards.

She was nominated by seven De Montfort University students and one Open University student who came under her supervision during placements at Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospital.

One of them said: "I know that without Lesley's support I would not be the nurse that I am today. She showed me that there is more to nursing than skills alone. I



take a bit of Lesley's example to the ward with me every day."

Another added: "Lesley made care of the elderly seem like the most enriching and rewarding job a nurse can do."

A third said she had lacked confidence, and had been on the verge of quitting nursing when she

met Lesley. "I would not be here today if it wasn't for such an inspiring and influential nurse."

Lesley Wright, 48, said she had always thought about a career in nursing, but the catalyst for taking the training was seeing the care other nurses gave her dying mother.

She qualified five years ago after studying at De Montfort University, and remembered not all her student placements were positive experiences.

She said: “I thought it doesn’t have to be like that. It doesn’t take a lot to be welcoming.”

She said she made sure the students understood the true importance of caring and compassion, as well as the technical skills of nursing.

She would also recommend nursing as a career.

“It is still the best decision I have ever made. The reward in a patient going home, or the reward you get from the relatives of a palliative patient who recognise good care is totally worthwhile.

“I love being able to make a difference to people at the most vulnerable times of their lives.”

Sarah Latham, inpatient matron at Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospital, said: “Lesley is an inspiration to everybody at the hospital.

“She has helped us recruit staff because students know they will get the support they need in the early stages of their career.

“She is regularly named in thank-you letters and notes from grateful patients and relatives for the care she gives.”

The winner of the award will be announced on April 27 at a ceremony at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

Caption: Lesley Wright (left) with Open University student Gemma Kimpton and De Montfort University student Adekunle Ojo.

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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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