

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

08 October 2015  
CHS\_016\_15

2 pages

## **Leicester respiratory project shortlisted for major award**

A project which improved the lives of patients with long-term lung conditions has been shortlisted for a major award.

The pilot brought together four healthcare organisations – two NHS, two non-NHS – to help those with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in Leicester manage their own condition.

It meant those patients had 177 fewer emergency admissions to hospital than expected. That in turn has saved the NHS almost £250,000.

The project was led by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and involved providing each patient with a home health computer, dedicated health coach and a specialist nurse. Each morning they would input information about how they were feeling, and their blood pressure. If this information indicated that their condition was in the early signs of deterioration, the patient would be given further advice to help improve their condition.

As their condition improved, the patients were put on a health coaching programme for up to 12 months, which gave them dedicated further advice about how to manage their condition themselves.

Alongside the health care advice the patients were also contacted with forecasts about weather which might aggravate their condition, and given appropriate advice about how to minimise any problems.

More than a dozen other organisations have approached the project team to see if they can apply the lessons in other parts of the country.

The project is one of three shortlisted in the Technology Enables Care Services (TECS) category of the second annual East Midlands Innovation in Healthcare Awards. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at the National Space Centre, Leicester, on November 5.

Professor Sudip Ghosh, Clinical Director for Specialist Services and Research at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, led the project. He said: "We are very

honoured to be nominated. The real heroes are our COPD patients who have immensely benefitted from the use of technology. It should make a real improvement to their quality of life.”

Dr Durairaj Jawahar, GP and COPD clinical lead for the Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “As commissioners we fully support innovation and working with a range of service providers in order to deliver on the long term conditions agenda, and we are delighted that this particular service has been recognised for the benefits it has provided for patients with COPD.”

Wendy Lawrence Chief Executive for Totally Health Plc, a specialist health coaching service, said: “The service is testament to how services external to the NHS and those within it can be integrated successfully to not only deliver high quality care to patients, but patients get the support of managing their own condition at home. We know patients are happier and recover quicker when their care is managed at home. We are really pleased that the service is working and patients with long term conditions are managed proactively.”

Quentin Hayes, Operations Director from Spirit Healthcare, which provided the computer equipment, said: “Spirit Healthcare are delighted to have been part of the Leicester COPD TotalCare service that has delivered such fantastic results for patients across the city. Being innovative to develop new healthcare models requires dedication and a shared vision, and it is great to see what can be achieved when the NHS and the independent sector combine forces to improve patients’ lives - we’re proud to be part of it.”

Notes to editors:

- These are the second annual East Midlands Innovation in Healthcare Awards, open to all organisations that support healthcare innovation including NHS organisations, universities, local government, industry and the voluntary/third sector;
- The East Midlands Innovation in Healthcare Awards 2015 celebrate healthcare innovation, with a particular focus on shining a light on initiatives that are developed by frontline clinicians and health workers, that meet the service needs of underserved communities, that involve patients, or that use technology to support transformation.
- 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 £282 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff. For more information visit [www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk).

ENDS

**For further information contact:** Brendan McGrath, Communications Manager, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Tel: 0116 295 0801, E: [brendan.mcgrath@leicspart.nhs.uk](mailto:brendan.mcgrath@leicspart.nhs.uk)