

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### David and Lara dig in for Rutland Memorial Hospital garden

Landscape gardening expert David Penny and Lara Hobbs get work under way as Rutland Memorial Hospital revamps its courtyard garden.

Over the coming weeks Mr Penny's team will be transforming the area, which is overlooked by Rutland Ward where health care assistant Lara works, into a stimulating therapeutic garden for patients, visitors and staff at the hospital in Cold Overton Road, Oakham.

"Brightly-coloured plants with different leaf shapes, sizes and textures have been chosen to provide a constant display and to enhance the colours of the blooms so that the garden offers year-round interest," said Mr Penny.

"Perfumes will also play an important role – particularly for visually-impaired patients – so we will be including plants that provide vanilla, orange, lemon, mint and subtle aromatic scents."

Mr Penny added that the garden has also been designed to be low-maintenance and to take into account soil and light conditions in the courtyard. It includes raised borders, high-specification artificial turf, wheelchair-friendly flooring and contrasting pathways.

The £38,000 project is being funded using part of a bequest from Uppingham businessman Edward Toon.

A plaque commemorating Mr Toon will be installed once work is complete and hospital managers also hope to add artwork and installations by local artists to make the courtyard an even more stimulating place.

An official opening ceremony is being planned for next spring but patients will be able to spend time in the garden from late autumn.



**Ends**

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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 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)

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