

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### LPT staff urged to thank volunteers – with a nomination



Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) is paying tribute this week to hundreds of volunteers who support its work in hospitals, schools, health centres and people's homes.

This week (1 – 7 June) is Volunteers' Week and LPT, which provides mental health, learning disability and community health services across Leicestershire, Rutland and Leicester, is urging staff to say 'thank you' with an award nomination.

This year's national campaign focuses on saying thank you to the millions of volunteers who contribute to society, and to recognise the way organisations celebrate their work.

LPT's 5,400 workforce is being urged to say their public thank you to the volunteers they work with by nominating them for the Trust's annual Celebrating Excellence awards, which celebrate the work of staff. The awards include a special category open to staff and recognising the invaluable work done by volunteers working alongside them in hospitals, health centres, admin bases and in the community.

Last year's winners were Keith and Frieda Smithson, who were nominated for their work supporting the patients of Ward 1 and tending the palliative care gardens at St. Luke's Hospital in Market Harborough. Volunteer breastfeeding peer group supporter Fiona Stevenson was commended for her invaluable support and information.

Sue Noyes, acting chief executive at LPT, said: "We have hundreds of people dedicating their free time, skills and energy to helping in our services and they are all committed to ensuring that our patients, carers, visitors and staff have a positive or comfortable experience.

“But the value of volunteering goes even deeper and we want to say a special thank you to all of our volunteers and to recognise the part that each of them is playing in making the communities where we provide care better places to live and work.”

LPT has a new voluntary services manager, Annie Peel, who took up her post this week after working as a member of the Trust’s health improvement service.

She said: “Our volunteers are an invaluable resource for our Trust and we are always looking for more people who feel they can help. We still have many services who would be grateful for someone to volunteer their time with them.”



**Balbinder Bhati** has been a volunteer at the LPT Involvement Centre, at the Bradgate Unit on the Glenfield Hospital site since 2011. The centre operates as one of the access services in adult mental health.

Balbinder says: “My role gives me a chance to work with a wide range of organisations, such as advocacy services and social enterprises supporting people with mental ill health. I have various responsibilities, such as helping visitors feel at home and helping to signpost them to information or people for advice.

“I love this role. The centre makes a real difference to people of all backgrounds, including families and carers. It’s helped me build my own confidence, learn new skills and be part of a brilliant team. One of the attractions is how each day is so different.”

Anyone interested in finding out more about volunteering for LPT can visit [www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk), ring the voluntary services office on 0116 295 4055 or email [volunteering@leicspart.nhs.uk](mailto:volunteering@leicspart.nhs.uk).

- Volunteers’ Week is an annual campaign on **1-7 June** and celebrates the fantastic contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK. This year’s Volunteers’ Week focuses on saying ‘thank you’ to the millions of volunteers who regularly contribute to society, and to recognise the way organisations celebrate their work.
- It is run by [NCVO](http://www.ncvo.org.uk) in partnership with [Volunteer Development Scotland](http://www.volunteerdevelopment.scot.nhs.uk), [Volunteer Now](http://www.volunteer-now.org.uk) (Northern Ireland) and [Wales Council for Voluntary Action](http://www.walesvoluntaryaction.org.uk)
- Voluntary Action Leicestershire’s website lists the volunteer related events taking place locally during the week: <http://www.valonline.org.uk/event-items>

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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)

**Our mission:** To advance health and wellbeing for you and your community

**Our vision:** To become an integrated Foundation Trust with a passion for quality and excellence

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